

Little boy approaching front of class with a head inside a jar, Blacks: "Okay, Now we'll see what Bobby Henderson has brought for show & tell."

Elephant centurion on stage, audience members: "A few him more his trunk."

Spider in house with fly-ang.

Squirrels plotting to grab old man's hat.

God, I hate

Dracula getting sunlamp

Woman has husband in cage, she's singing "He so nice to have a man around the house"

Cows getting out of Tasi with luggage etc., woman in window. "Arnold... The cows have come home."



fauna have played plague around with to



Can you guess



"Hey, Floener!... You should see you when I do this!"

Man with stick in your bowl water level low, you still won't talk!"

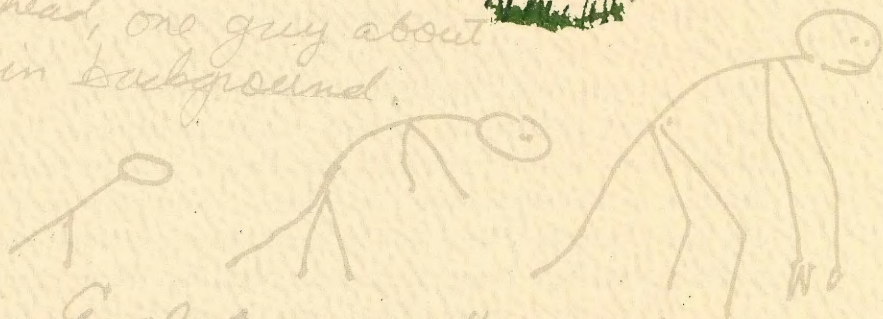


Pain jumper is a stick



walking thru here at night

Men working on warhead, one guy about to explode paper bag in background.



Evolution of the stick-man.

Cow to others, horrified, "Hey! Wait a minute! This is grass! We've been eating grass!"

"And
Flies at table. Did you remember to rub your
legs together before dinner?"

Larson

lifelong to see who die
Drawing straw in the
boy is present

The Syndrome

The last time it struck me was a few years ago, while my wife and I were on vacation in Indonesia. Frankly, my syndrome hadn't surfaced for years, and up until this rather embarrassing "Bali episode," I had foolishly thought I was completely free of its grip.

I had just left the Hotel Bali Oberoi's outdoor bar and was heading back to our "hut," bearing a couple of those tropical drinks that look like someone had stuffed a clown into a blender. Just then, across the beautifully landscaped grounds, maybe a hundred feet from where I stood, strolled an enormous black lizard, perhaps three feet in length.

Outwardly, I was calm. Inwardly, I was completely undone. I put the drinks down on the lawn and immediately started moving toward this mysterious reptile. (Some kind of monitor lizard, I later determined.) And as it kept a watchful eye on me, maintaining a constant distance, I started moving a little faster. As did the lizard. As did I. Within a few minutes I was running full out, dodging palm trees and startled tourists. I was focused on that lizard, that big, beautiful, scaly creature of my dreams.

Hello to my little problem. Or, as my brother (who was also doomed to suffer under its spell) and I "scientifically" designated it, the *ohplease-ohplease syndrome*. For both of us, it first showed up in childhood.

On any given day or night, under optimum conditions (no school, essentially), Dan and I would gather up our boots, nets, and collecting jars and head for the local swamps or tidelands. We were on a quest for living treasure: the wetland fauna of western Washington.

Our passion for frequenting wetlands was not the syndrome per se: It was merely setting the stage. The syndrome itself, however, was always waiting in the wings, ready to pounce. Allow me to put you in my boots, and I will attempt to walk you through a typical "episode" of *ohpleaseohplease*.

It's night. You are at the edge of a big swamp, wading through the muddy shallows, staying close to the reeds. Your trusty net is in one hand, your less trusty flashlight in the other. The only sounds you hear are frogs and occasionally creatures of unknown origin. Your flashlight sweeps back and forth in a slow, smooth arc, its beam searching for denizens of the not-so-deep. And then ... your heart nearly stops. You can barely breathe. There, not far from where you stand frozen, illuminated in your light beam, is the most beautiful, the most incredible _____ (fill in the creature of your own dreams) that you have ever laid eyes on! Now the syndrome kicks in.

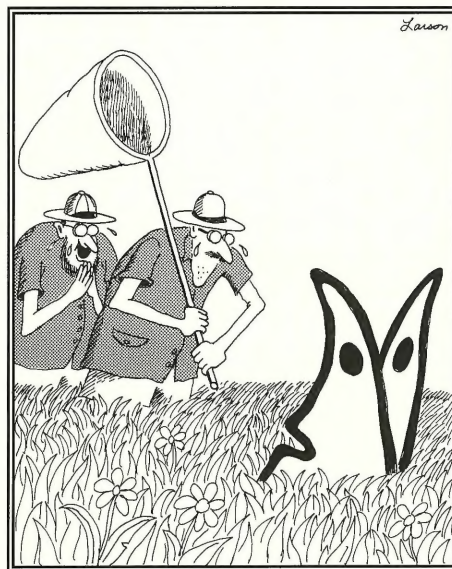
For a while, you dare not move. But soon you find yourself moving (or is it being “pulled”?) in slow motion toward this beautiful, amazing _____. And as you raise your net into capture position with the practiced skill of an Amazonian Indian (wearing glasses), knowing that at any moment the _____ might realize your intent and instantly vanish, you hear, over and over again, a single voice pounding in your head: *ohpleaseohplease!* It’s an all-out begging of the gods to deliver yonder animal unto thy net. And while that voice implores away inside your brain, you experience a total eclipse of everything else in the known universe. All you see is that amazing, beautiful, incredible _____ that’s staring back at you.

Like a full moon shining down on some werewolf, that huge lizard in Bali had triggered my own curse. I *wanted* that lizard. I *had* to have that lizard. I *lusted* after that lizard!

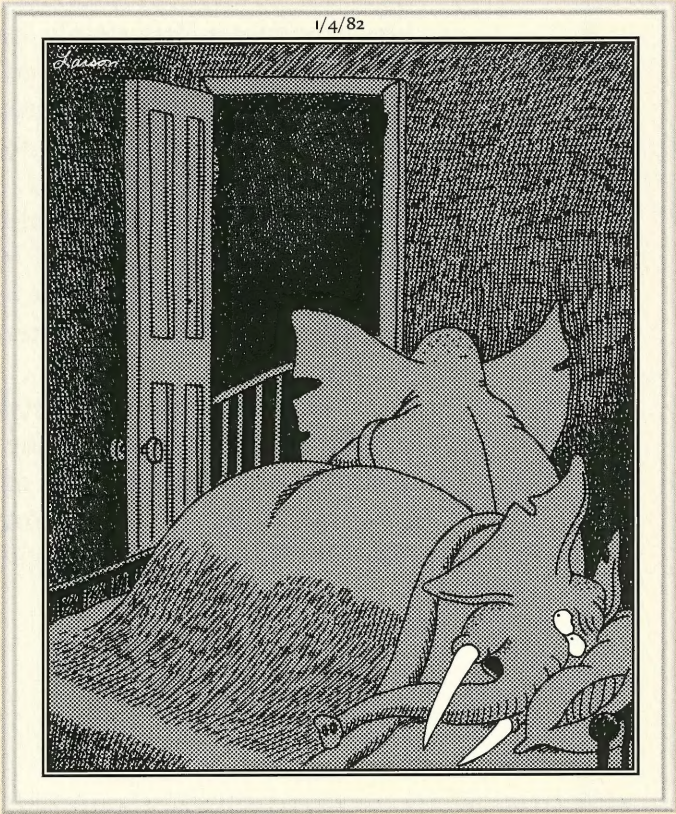
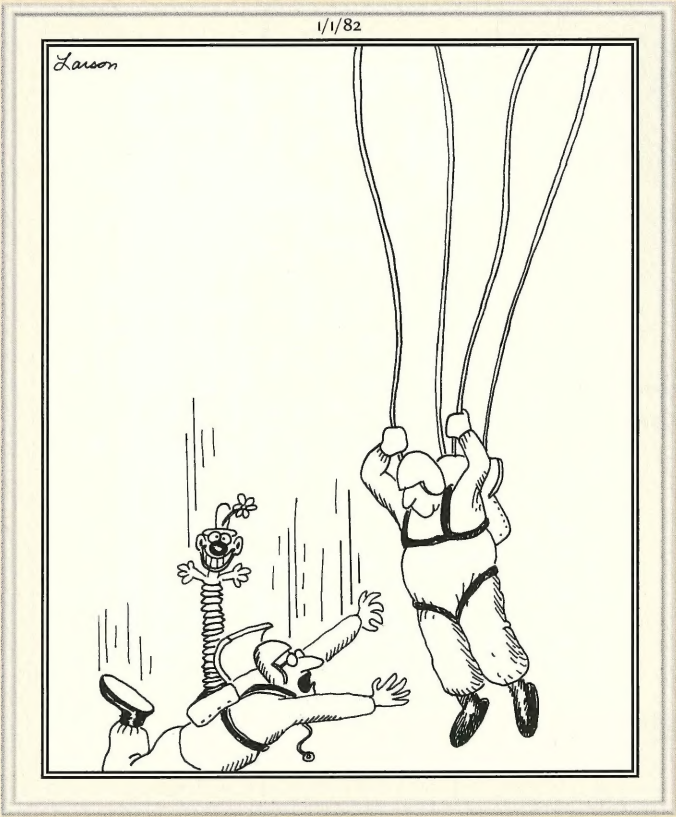
In the end, that big reptile just ran into some bushes. Gone like a lizard. And so there I stood, drenched in sweat—the only tell-tale sign that I had just experienced another attack of *ohpleaseohplease*.

Years ago, my brother and I concluded we were probably not alone with our affliction. Biologists, naturalists, all people who find themselves inexplicably drawn to look under rocks, down holes, up trees, under water, or wherever else you might discover some beautiful beastie, must also suffer from bouts of *ohpleaseohplease*. Very simply, it’s the obsession to capture and to hold, if only for a few moments, some living, natural wonder, to observe it, examine it, have it touch your skin, feel its heartbeat against your hand—to “drink it in” before it once again slips back over that invisible wall that separates Us from Them.

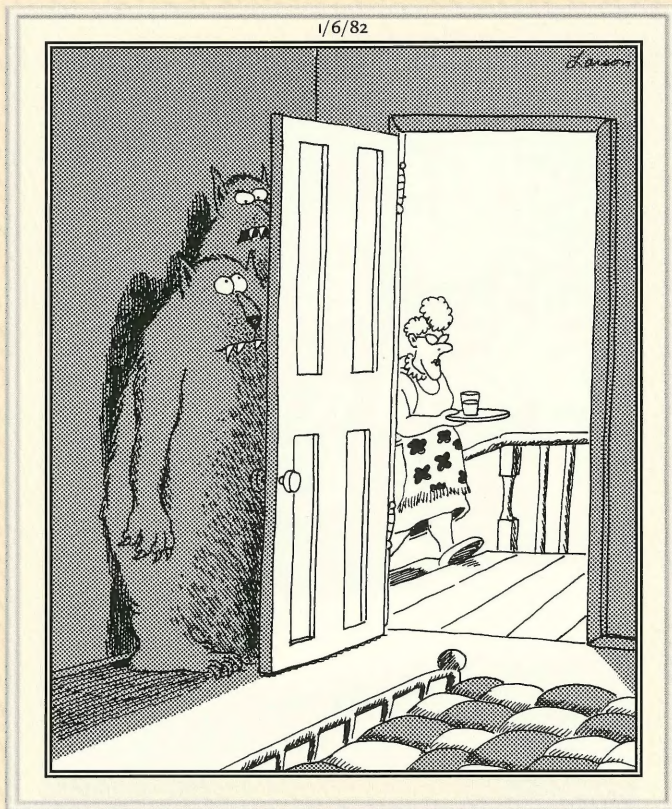
Whether directly or indirectly, the memory of *ohpleaseohplease* was the genesis for a number of my cartoons. I guess in the end, you are what you draw. A scary thought.



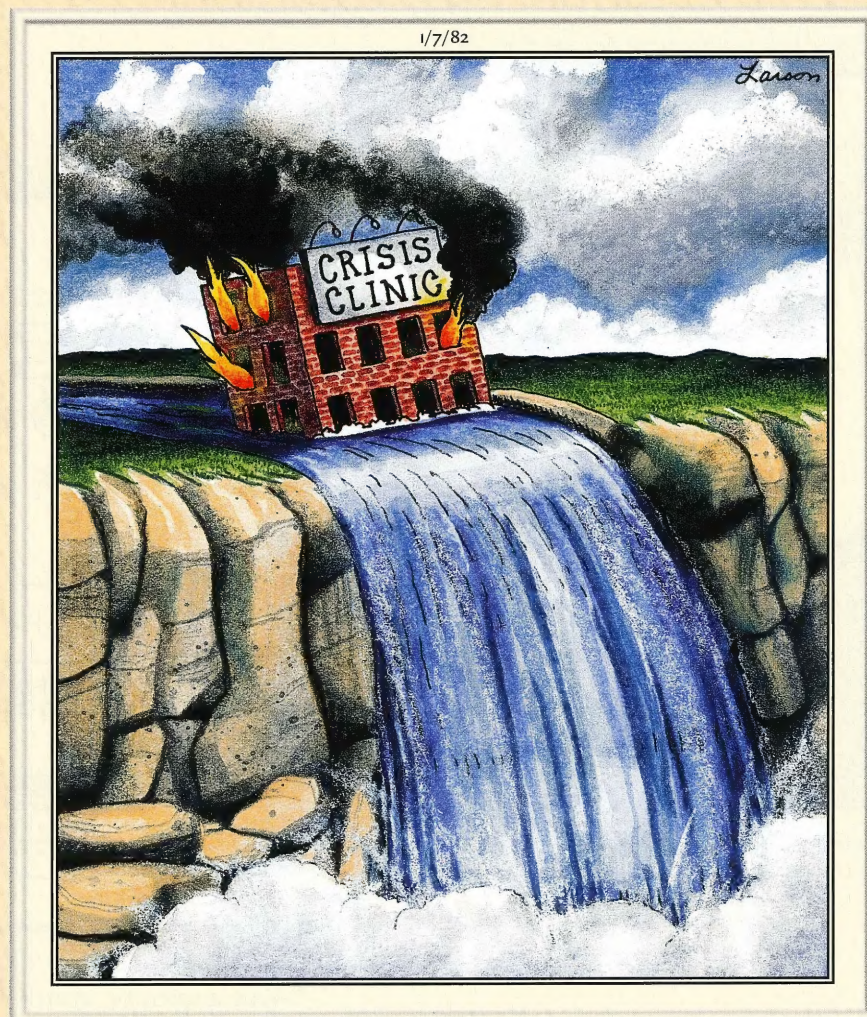
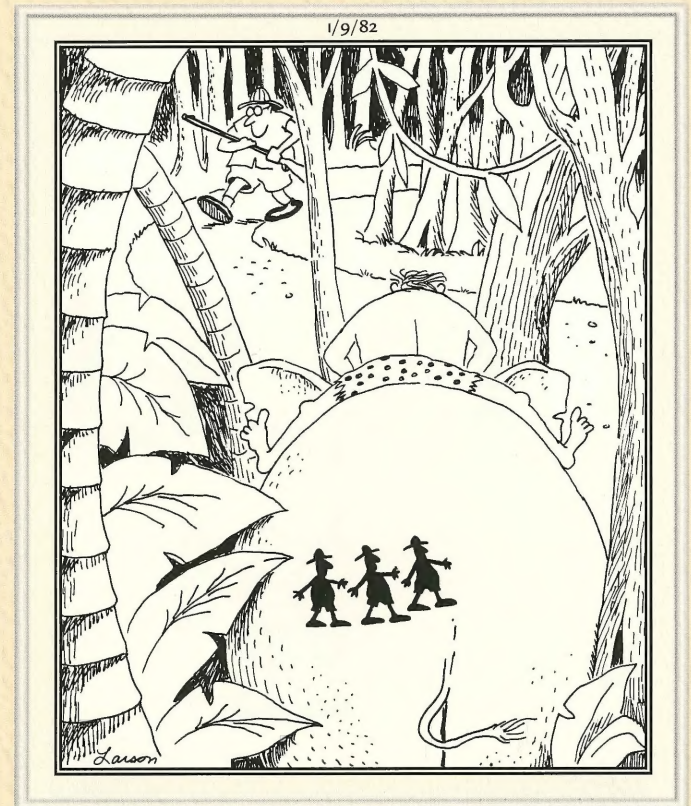
“Eaaaaaasy, Smithers! ... Eaaaaasy ...
Oh please, oh please!”

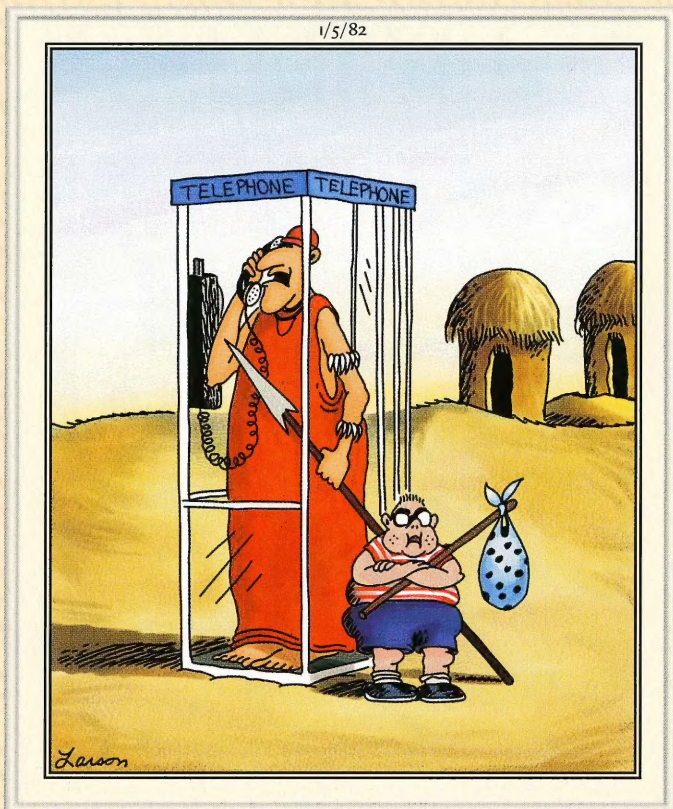


"For crying out loud! ... You're *always* hearing something moving around downstairs!"

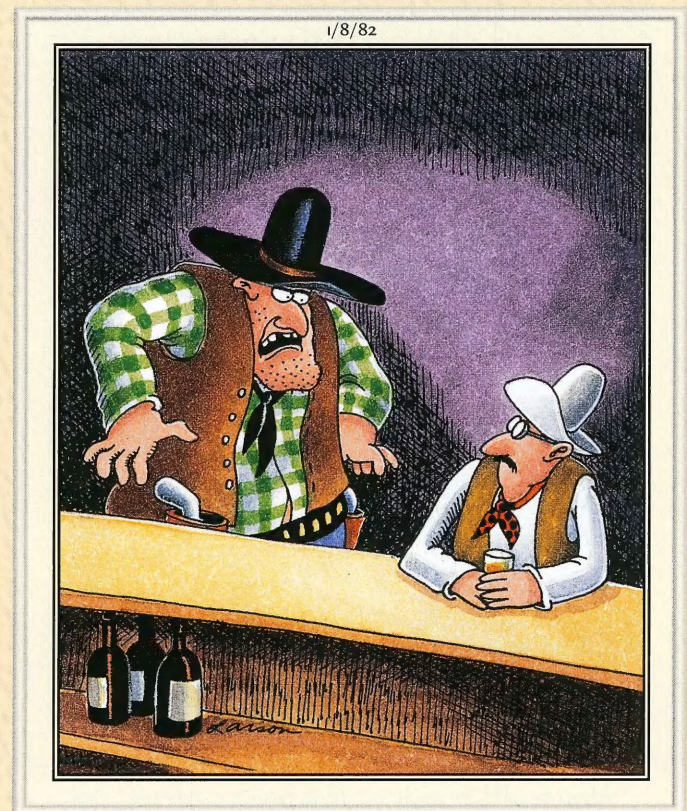


"Shove off, buddy ... I've been working this neighborhood for years."

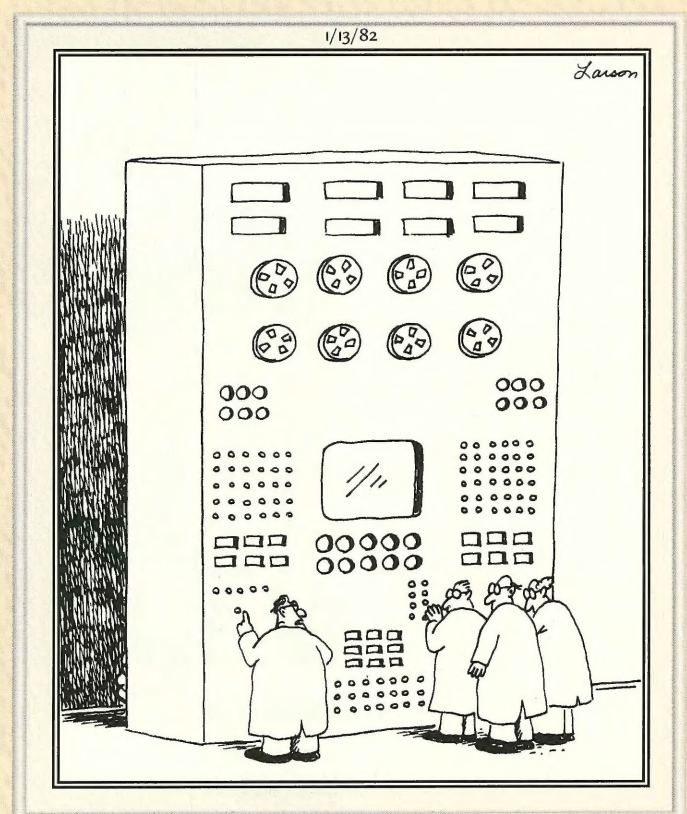
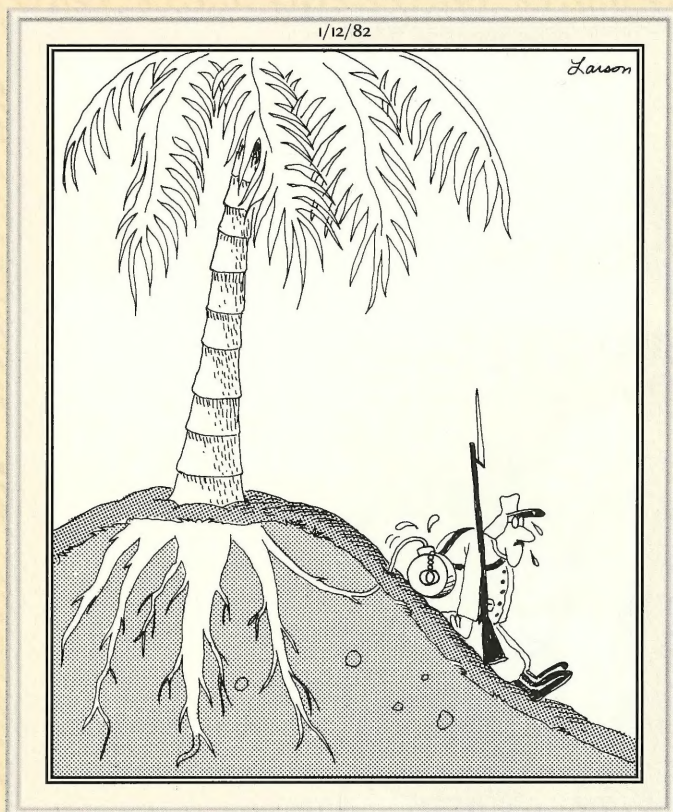




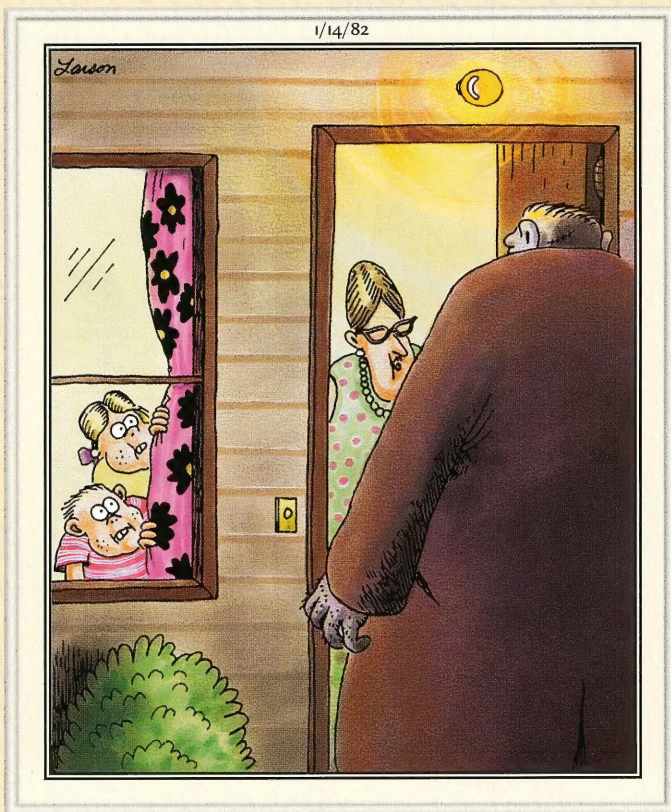
"Mrs. Harriet Schwartz? This is Zathu Nananga of the Masai. ... Are you missing a little boy, Mrs. Schwartz?"



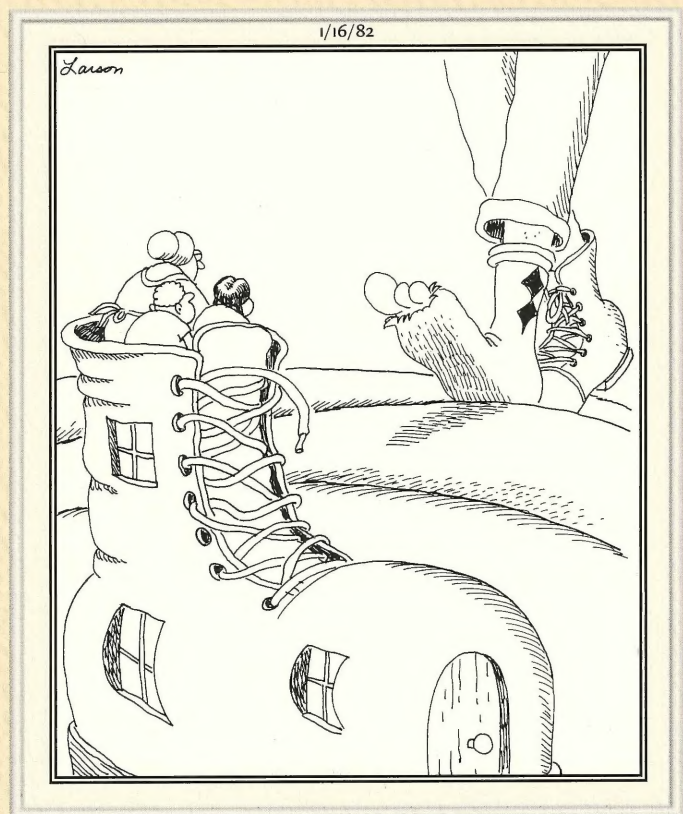
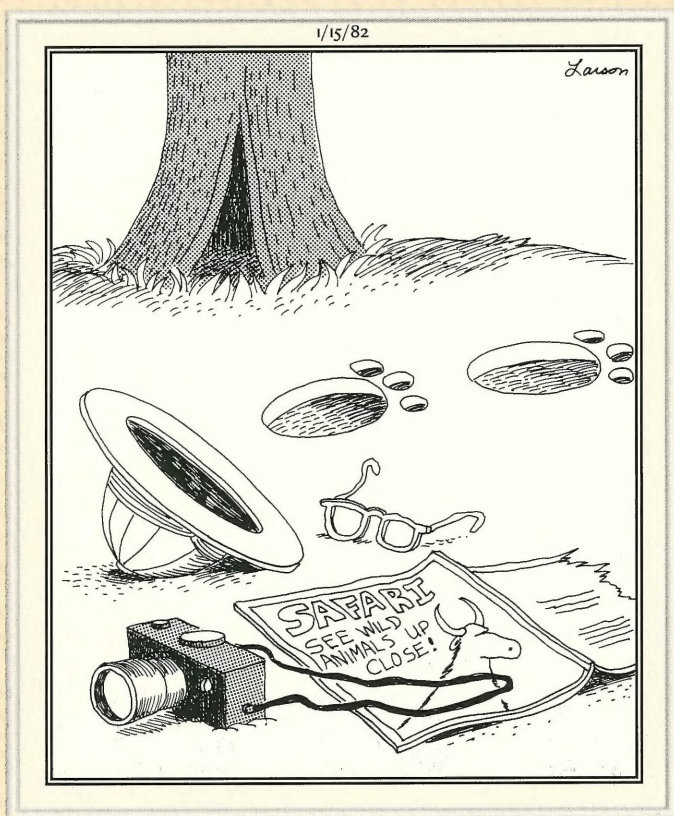
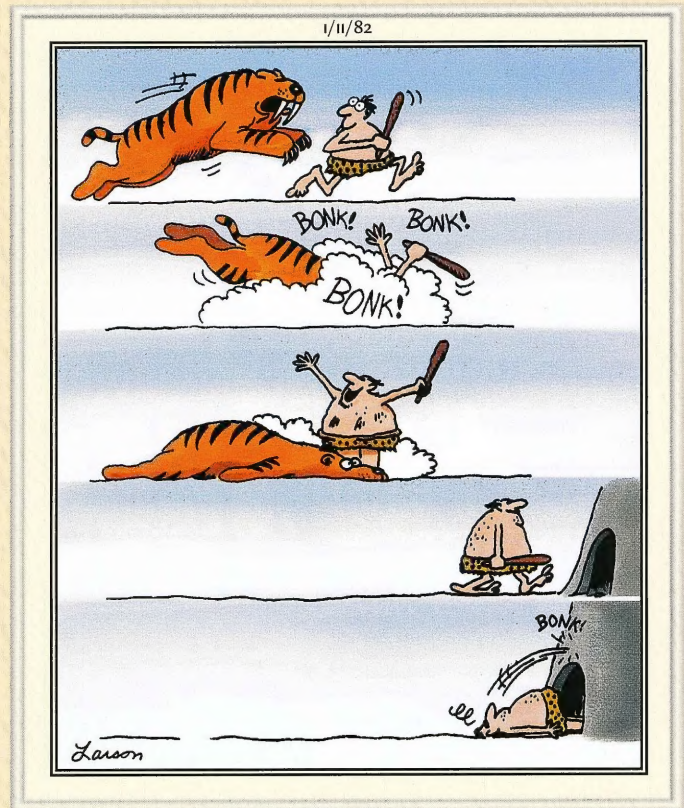
"I asked you a question, buddy. ... What's the square root of 5,248?"

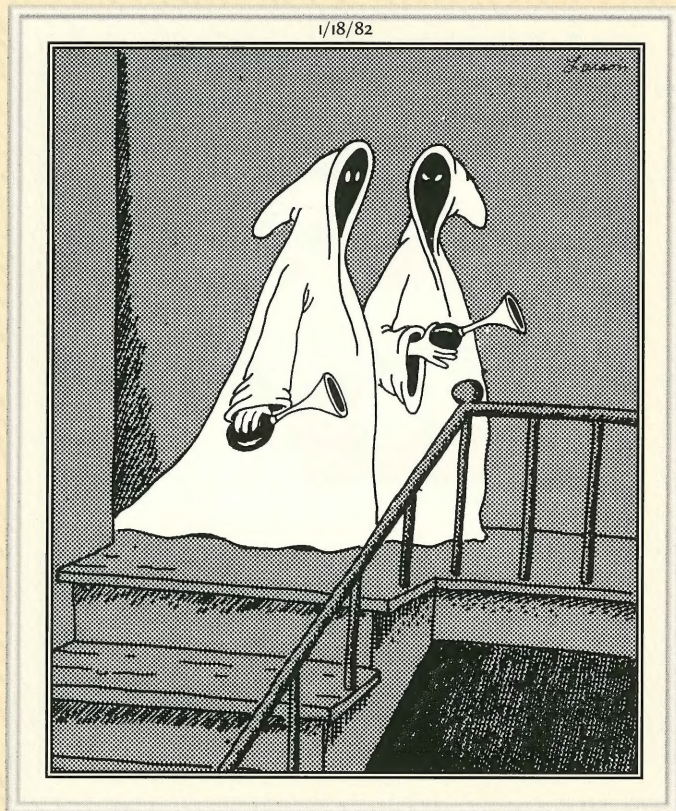


"Wait a minute, gentlemen. ... Here's the 'on' switch over here."



"Why, yes ... we do have two children who won't eat their vegetables."

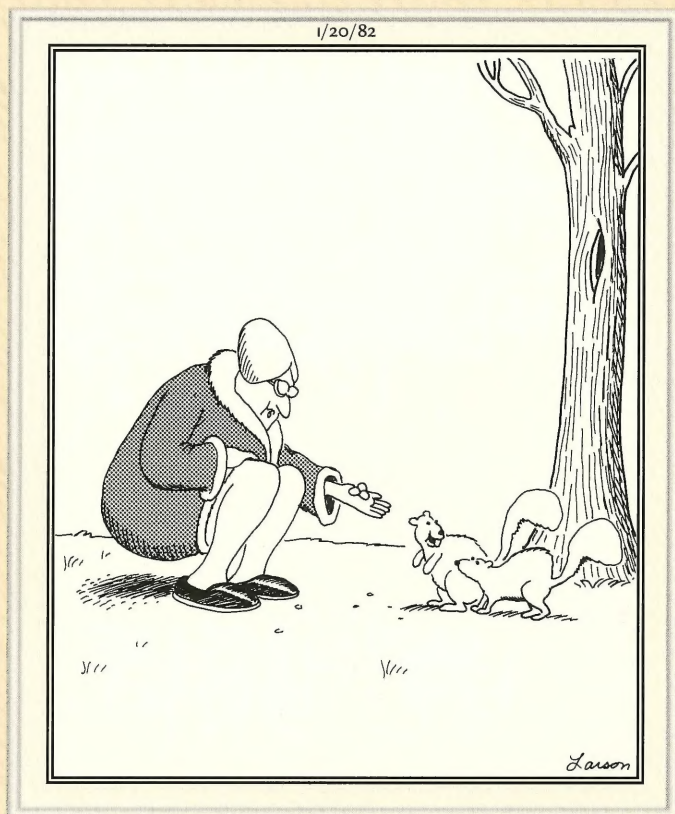




"This is just not effective. ... We need to get some chains."



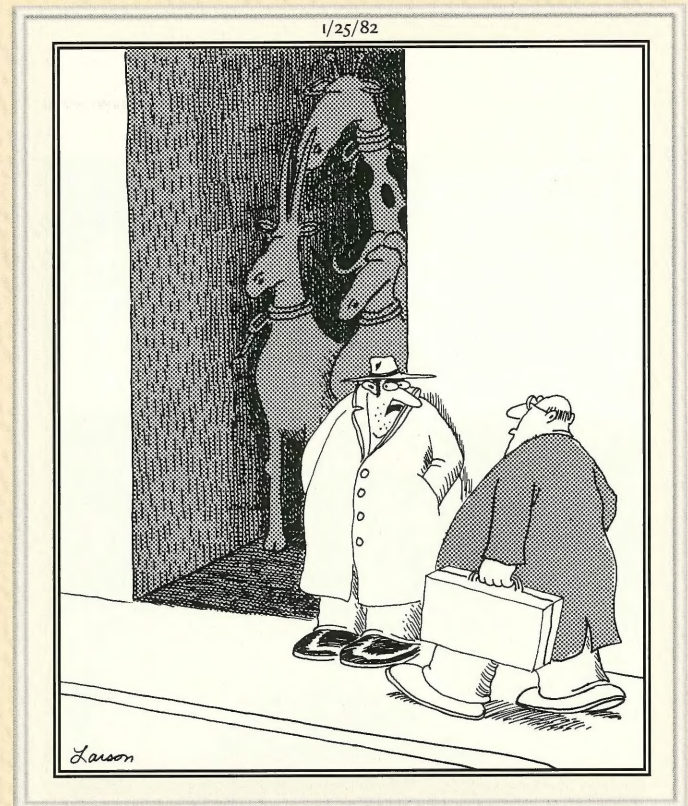
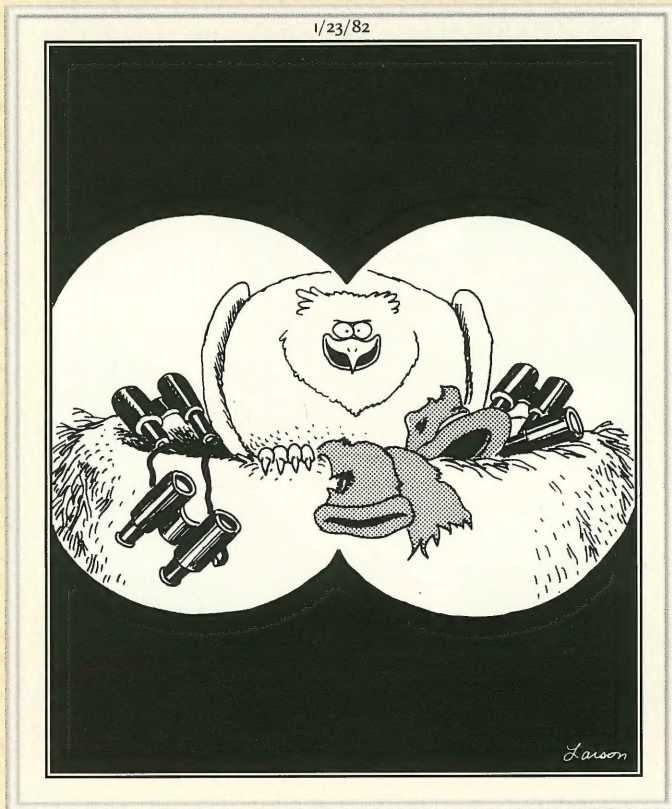
"Hathunters!"



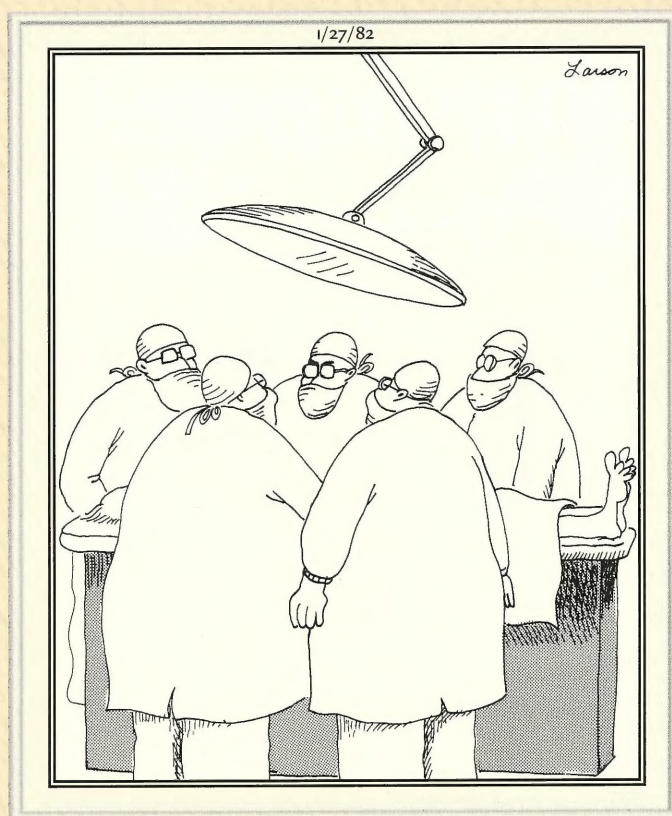
"I can't stand it. ... They're so *cute* when they sit like that."



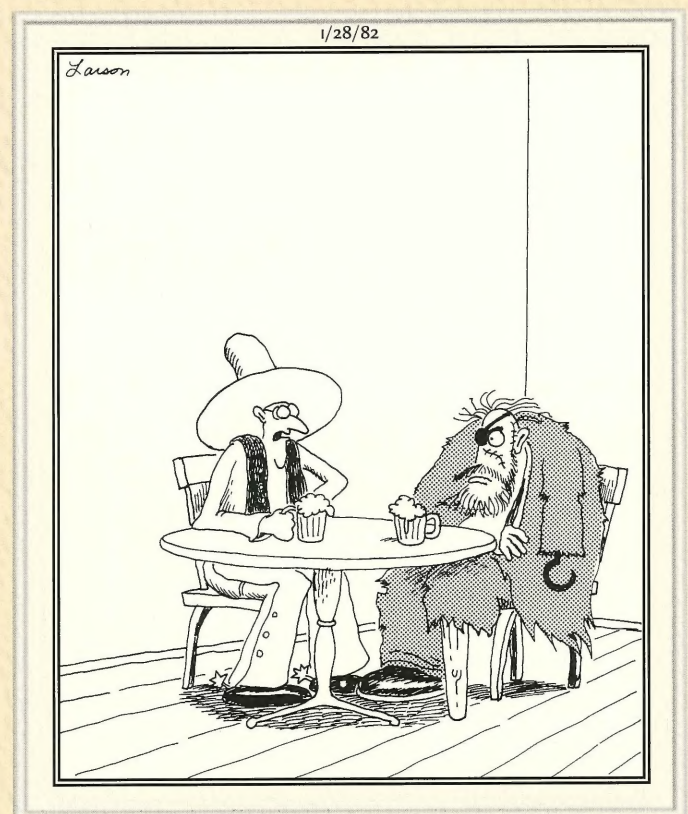
Africa's deadliest game



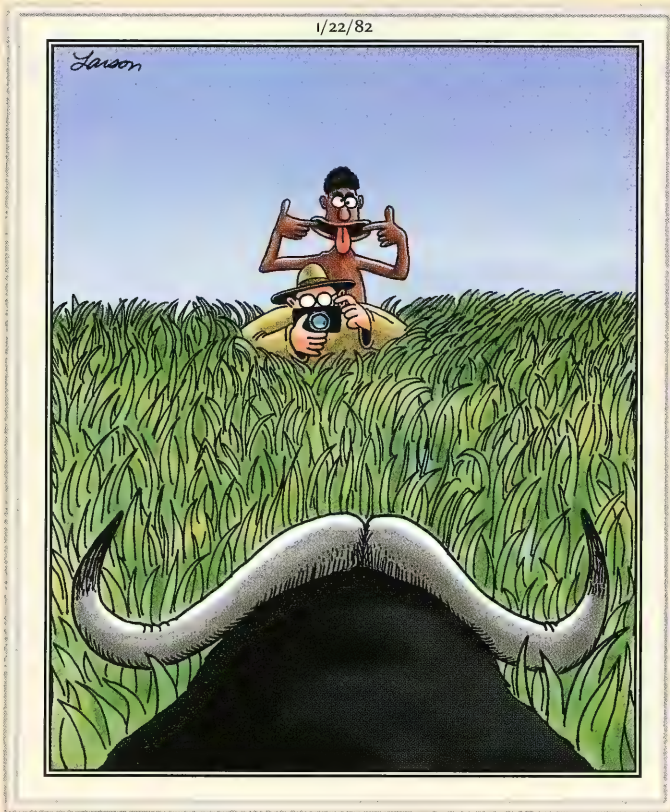
"Hey, buddy ... you wanna buy a hoofed mammal?"



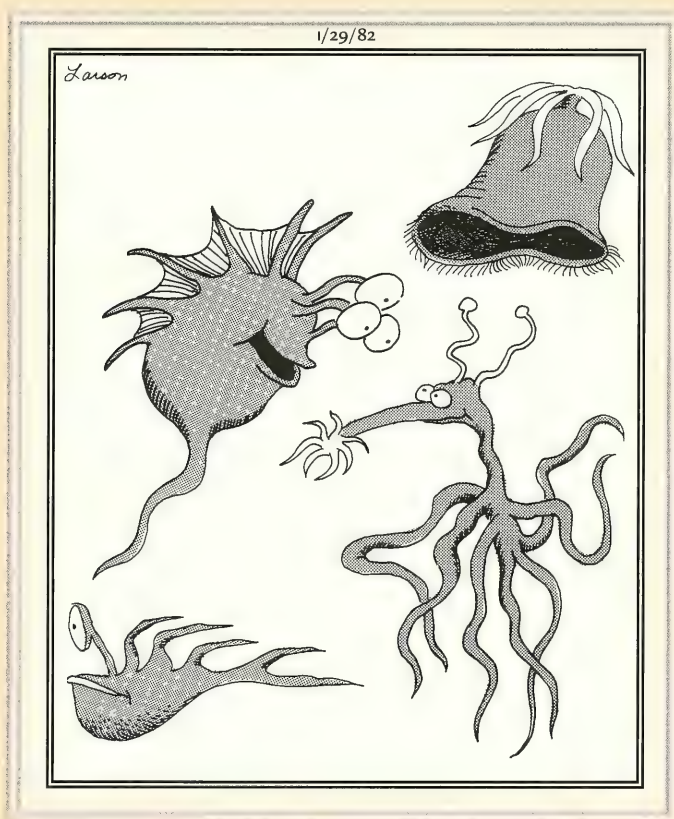
"Okay, Williams, we'll just vote. ... How many here say the heart has four chambers?"



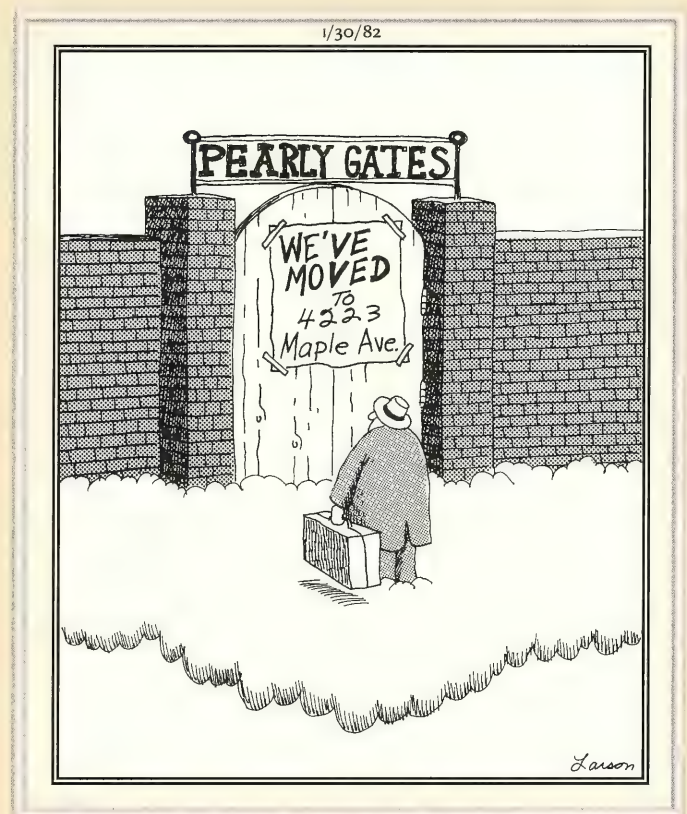
"Okay, so you're Grizzly Adams. ... Let's see some proof!"



"These little ones are mice. ... These over here are hamsters. ... Ooh! This must be a gerbil!"



"Hey! Is that you, Arnie? ... Small petri dish!"



2/1/82



"Now wait just a minute here. ... How are we supposed to know you're the *real* Angel of Death?"

2/3/82



"Big one, Thag! ... We caught biiiiig one!"

2/2/82

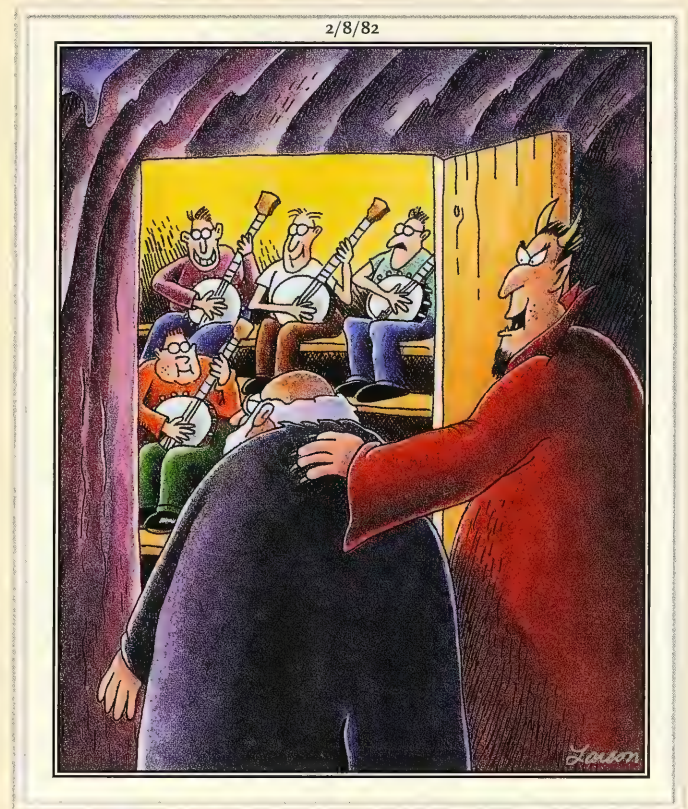
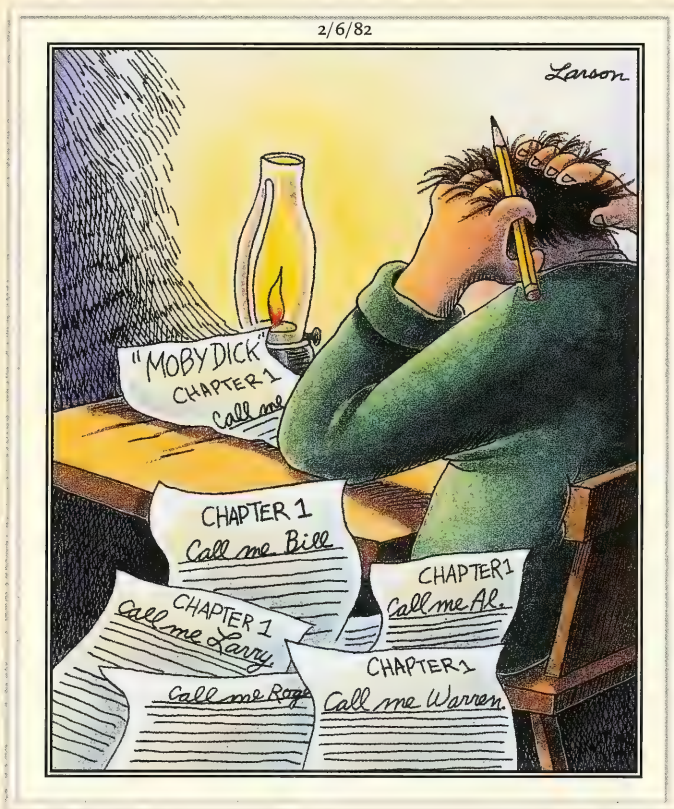


"Blast it, woman! ... Have you seen my reading glasses?"

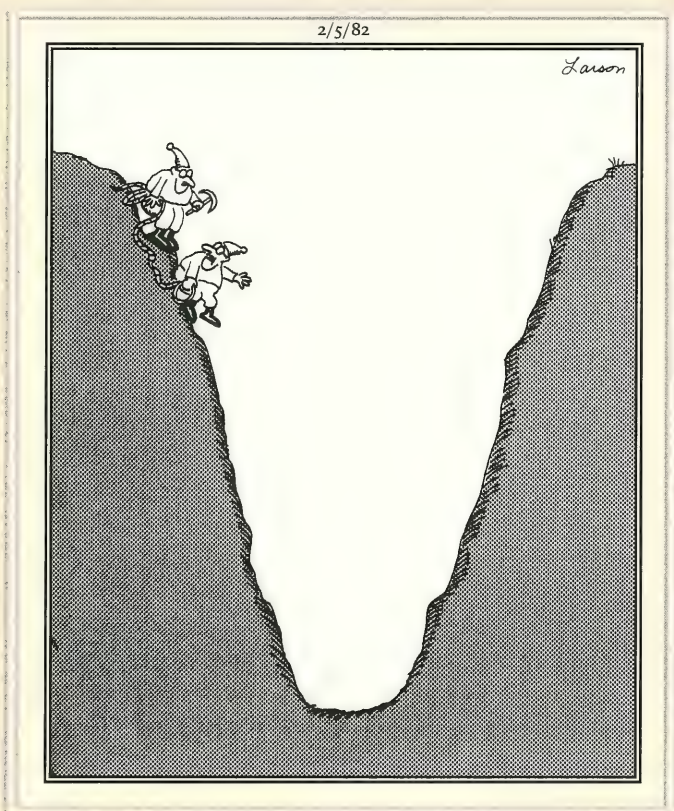
2/4/82



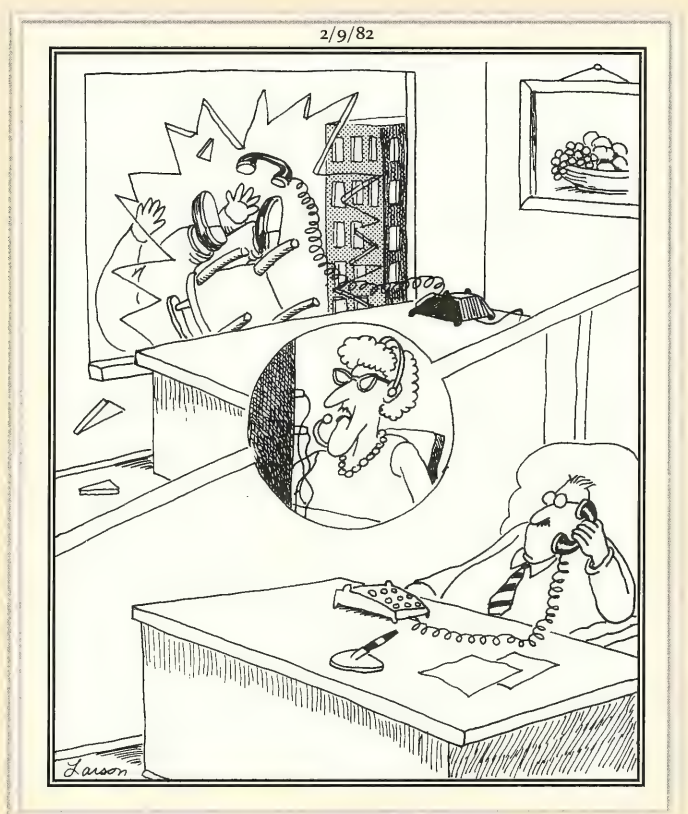
"Millions of years old and they look as if they were laid yesterday!"



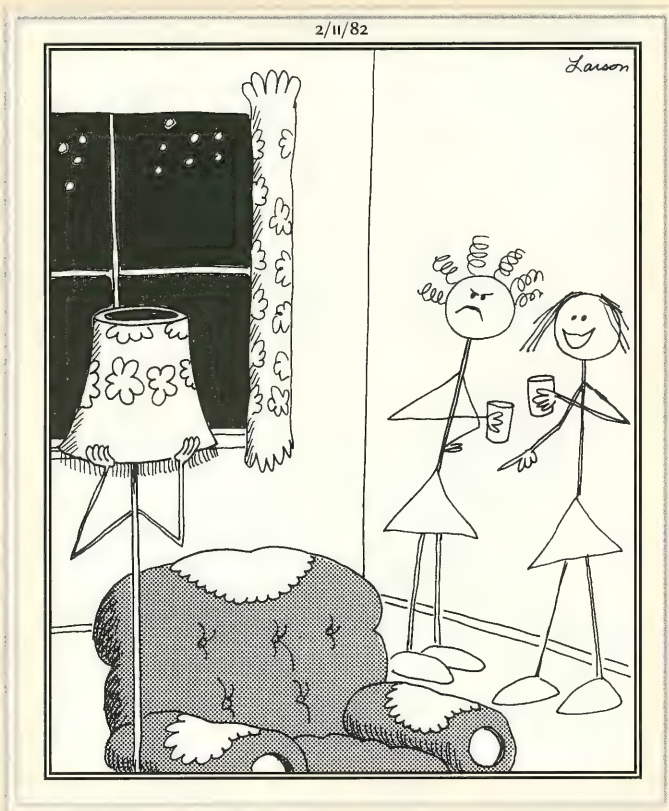
"Your room is right in here, Maestro."



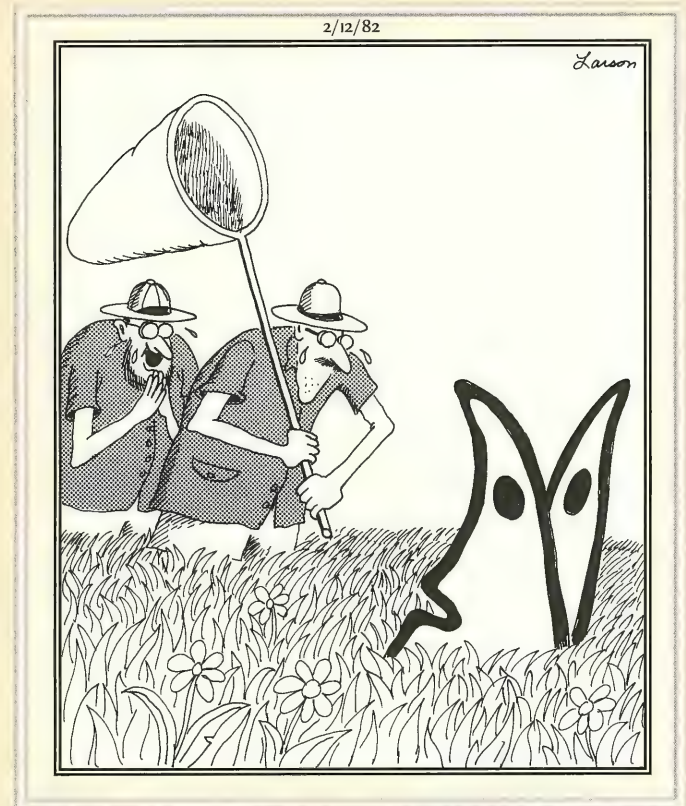
"Because it's not there."



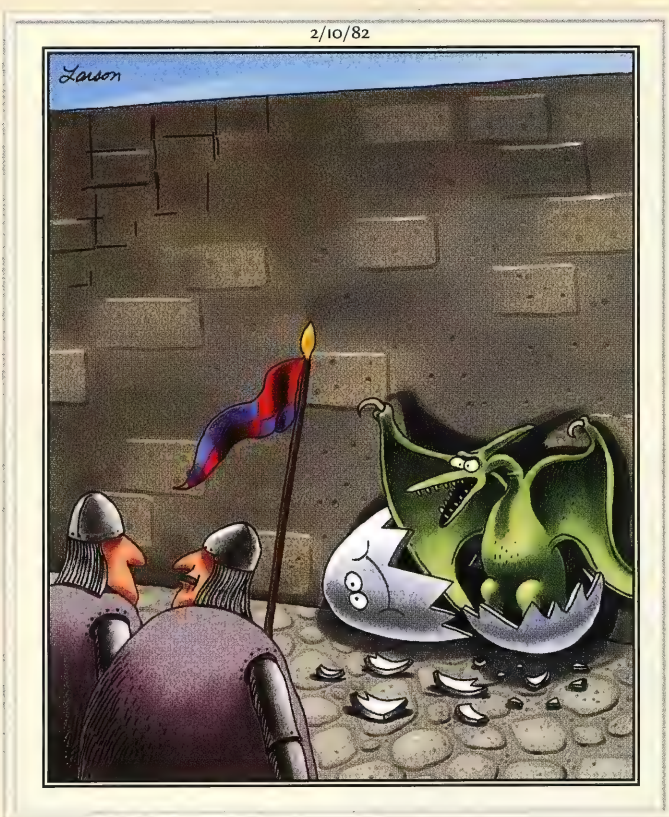
"Yes. Will you accept a collect call from a Mr. Aaaaaaaa?"



"Uh-oh, Gladys. ... Looks like your Sidney has had too much to drink again."



"Eaaaaaasy, Smithers! ... Eaaaaasy ...
Oh please, oh please!"

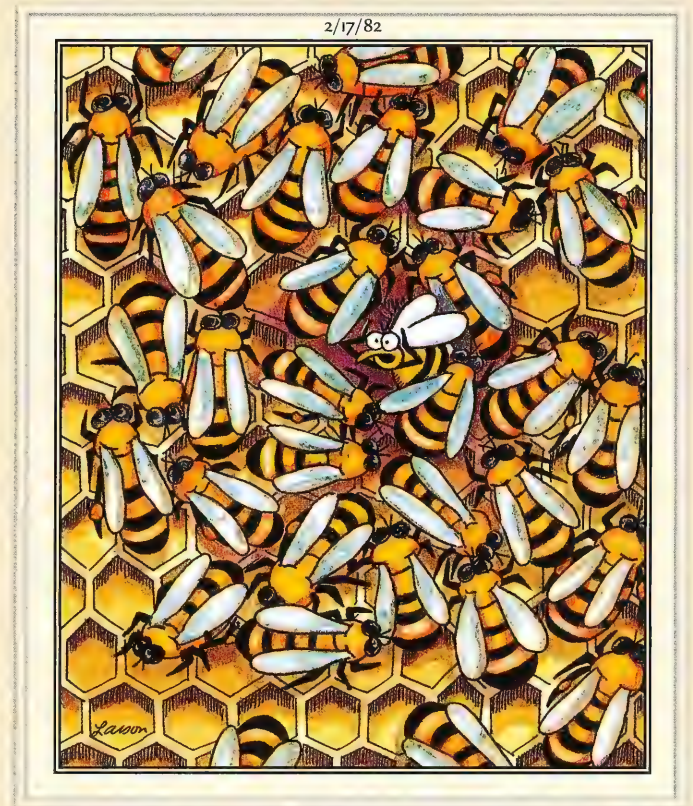


"Look. ... You wanna try putting him back together again?"





"You idiots! ... We'll never get that thing down the hole!"

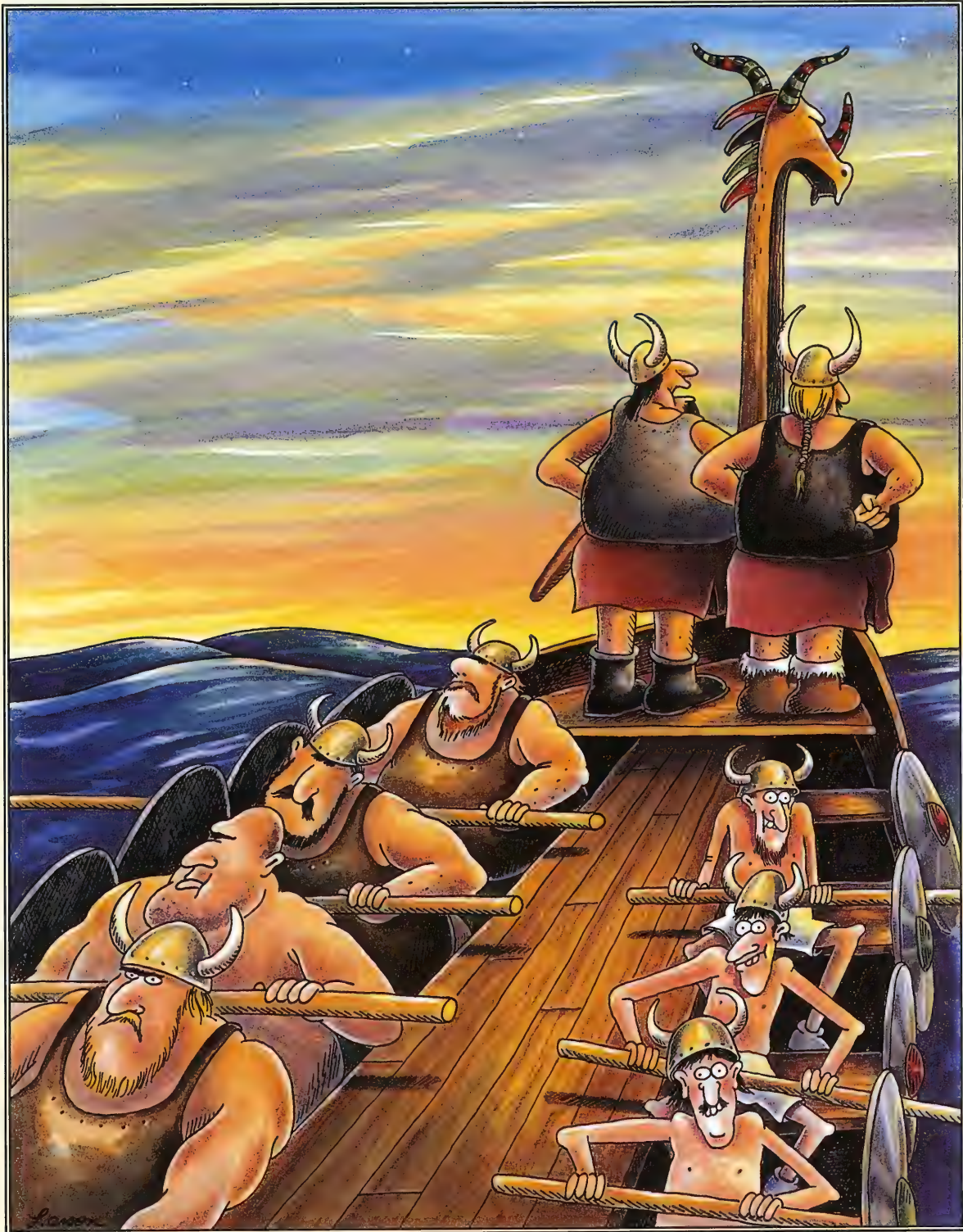


"No more! No more! I can't take it! ...
That incessant buzzing sound!"

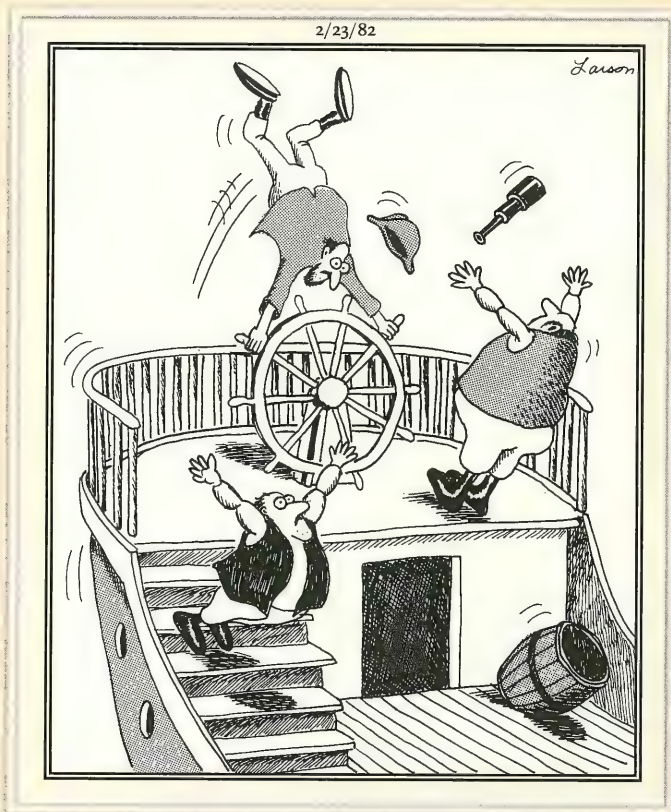


Great moments in evolution

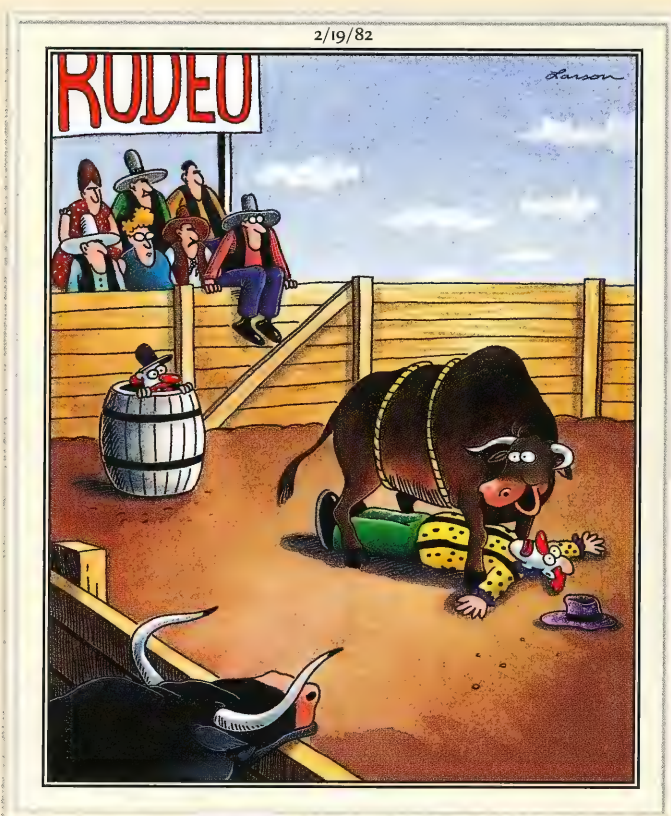
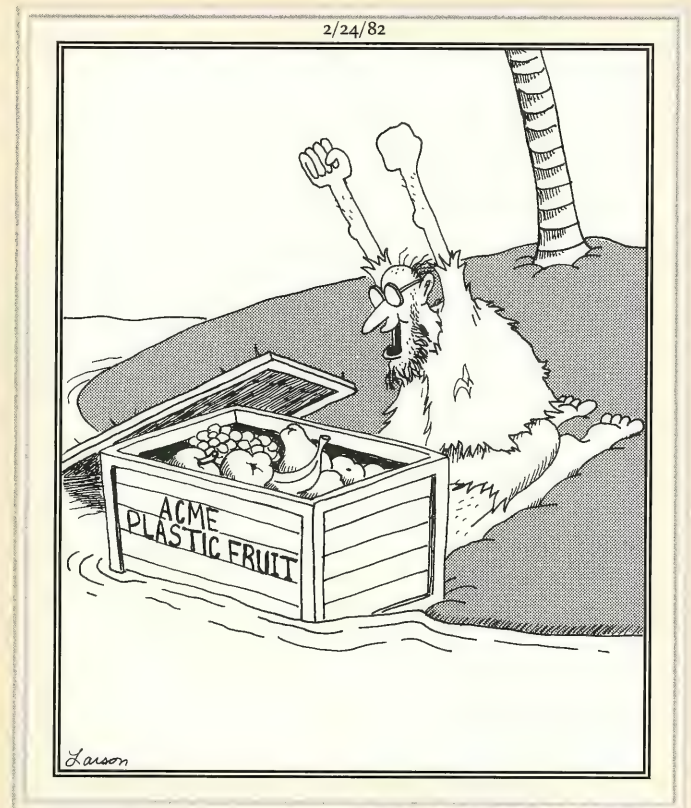
2/18/82



"I've got it, too, Omar ... a strange feeling like we've just been going in circles."



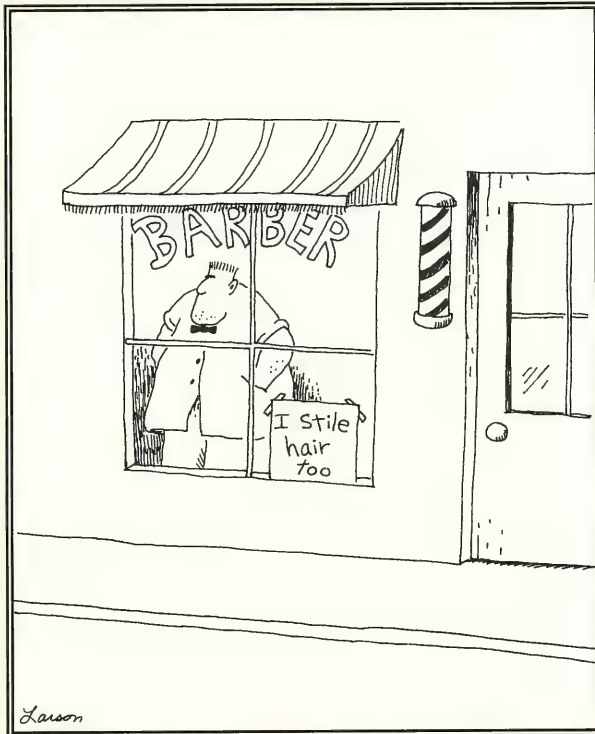
Columbus discovers America.



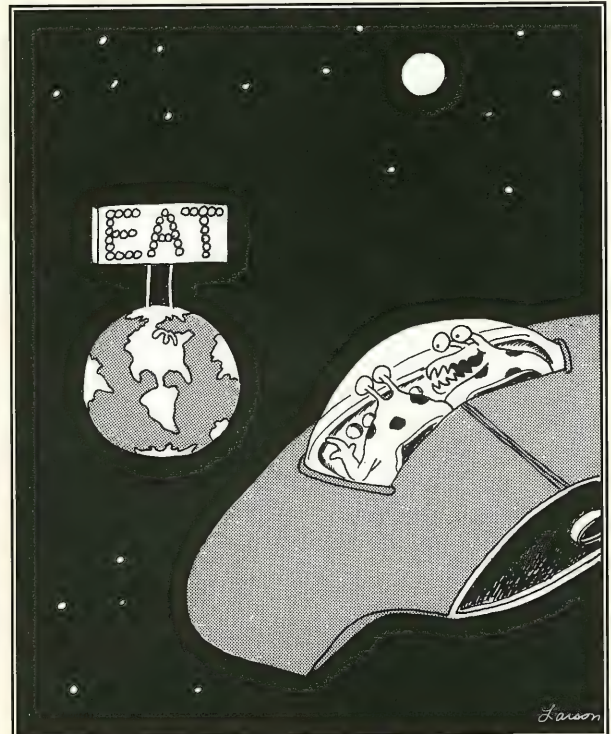
"Hey! I got one! I got one!"



2/26/82



2/27/82



"Say ... I could go for something."

2/22/82



2/25/82



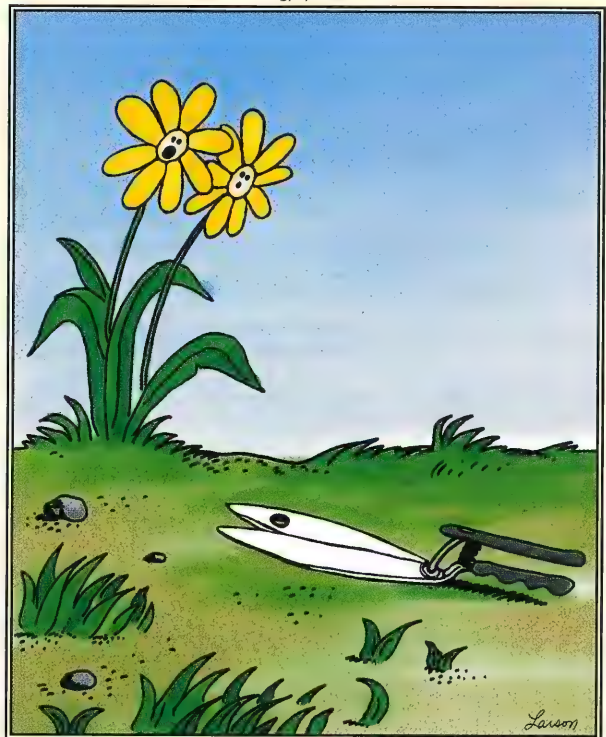
"Big Bob says he's getting tired of you saying he doesn't really exist."

3/1/82



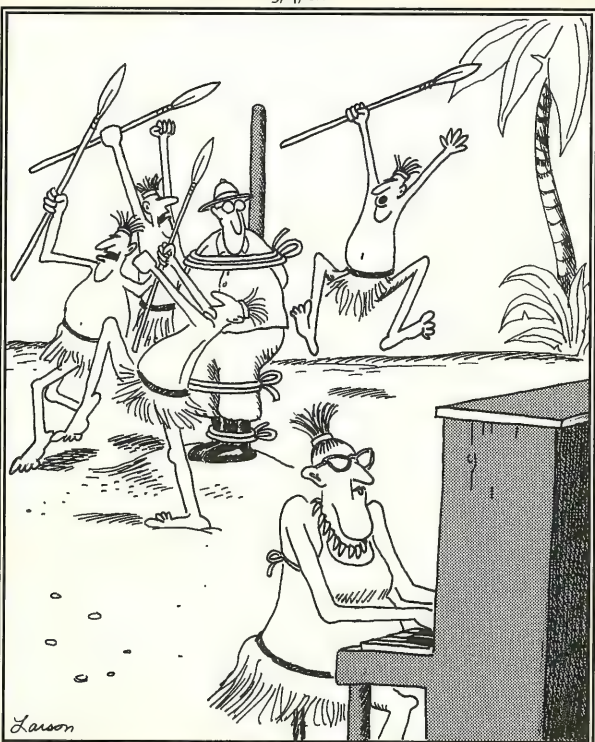
"Me? I was charging on the right, when you suddenly went left, so I went left, and then you went right again, you idiot!"

3/2/82

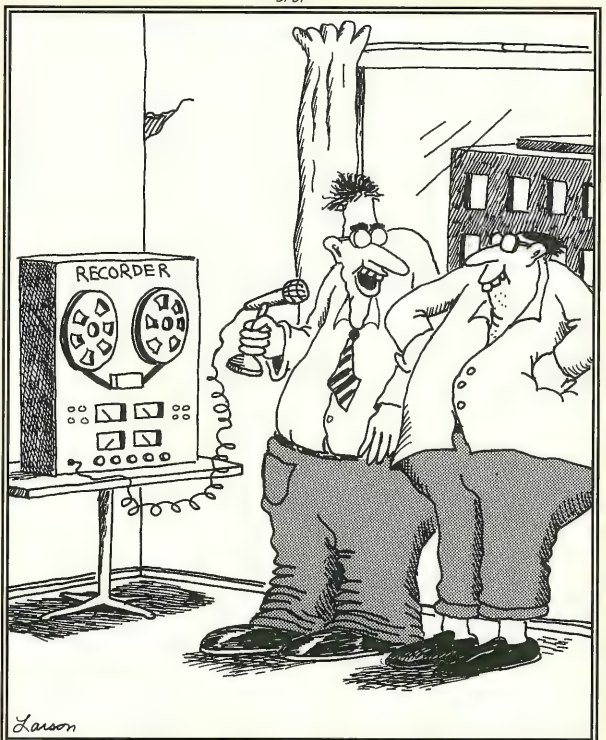


"There! There! See it, Larry? ... It moved a little closer!"

3/4/82

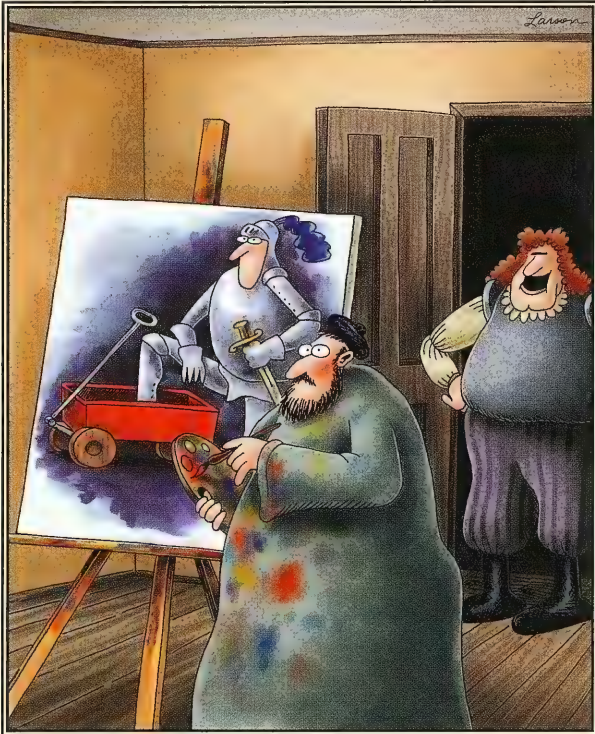


3/5/82



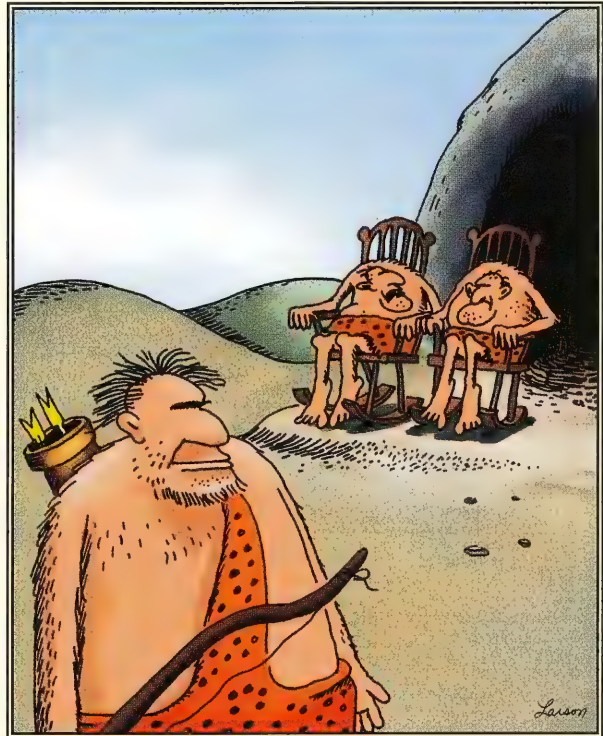
"Oh, wow! I can't believe this thing! ... Does my voice really sound that funny?"

3/3/82



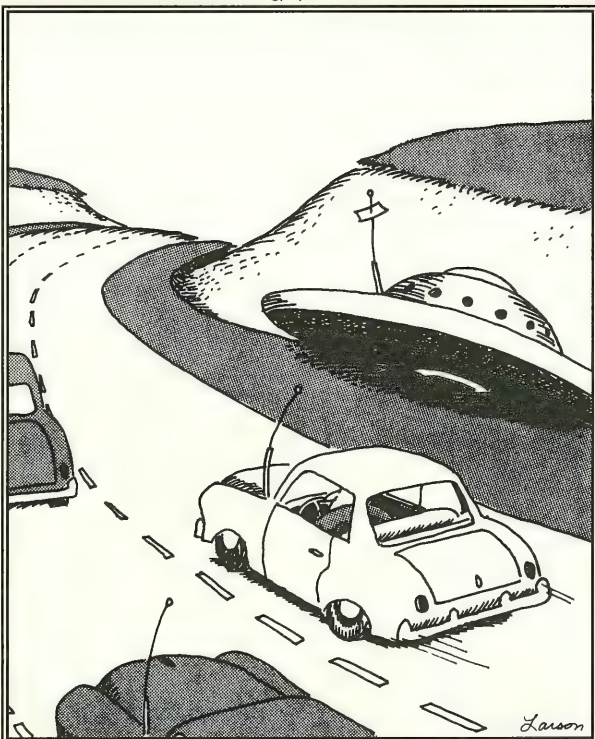
"So, Andre! ... The king wants to know how you're coming with St. George and the Dragon."

3/12/82

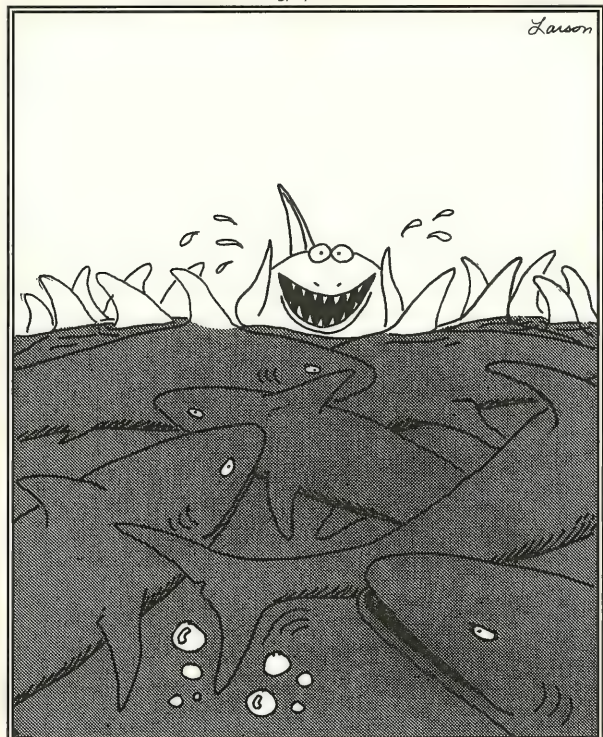


"Look at that! ... Give me the good ol' days when a man carried a club, walked semi-erect, and had a brain the size of a walnut."

3/6/82



3/8/82



"FEEDING FRENZY!"

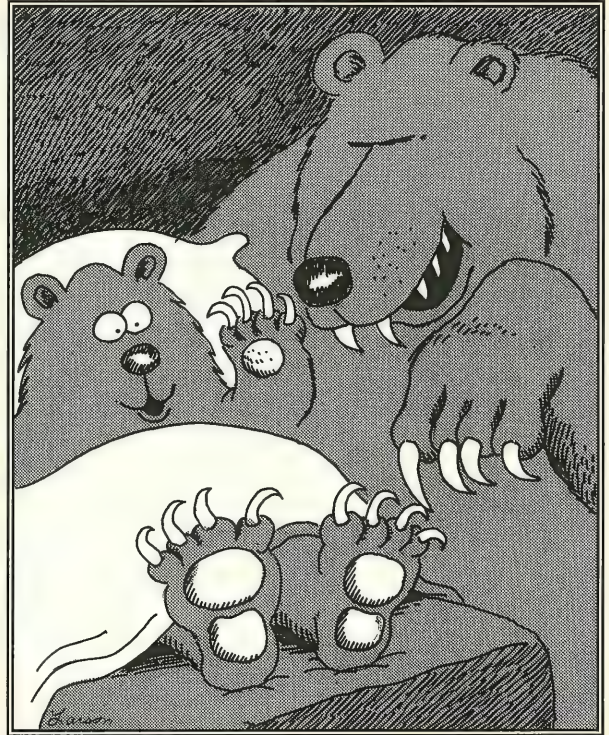
3/9/82

Larson



"My word, Walter! ... Sounded like a good-size bird just hit the window."

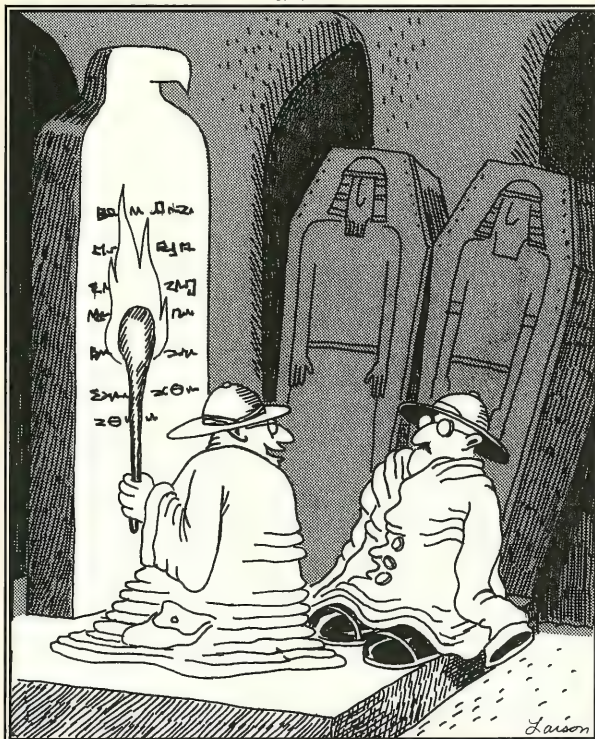
3/10/82



"And this little piggy went weee, weee, weee, weee ... but soon stopped struggling and was eaten."

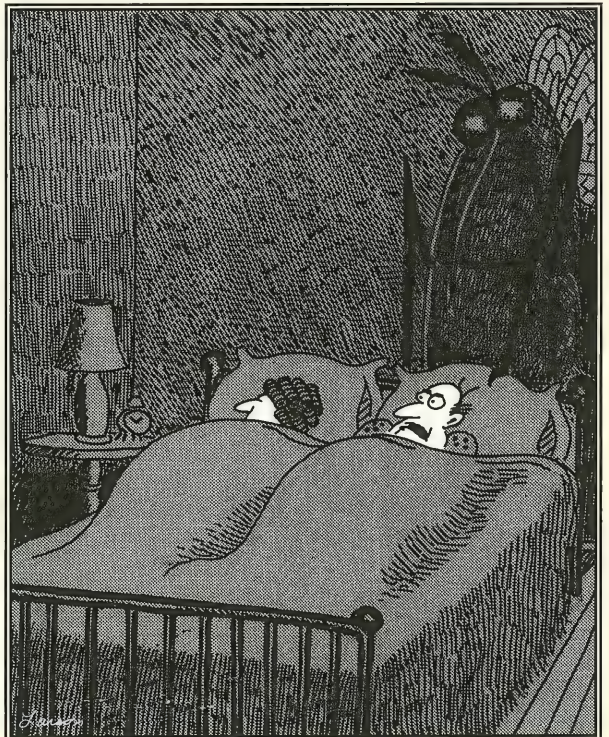
3/11/82

Larson



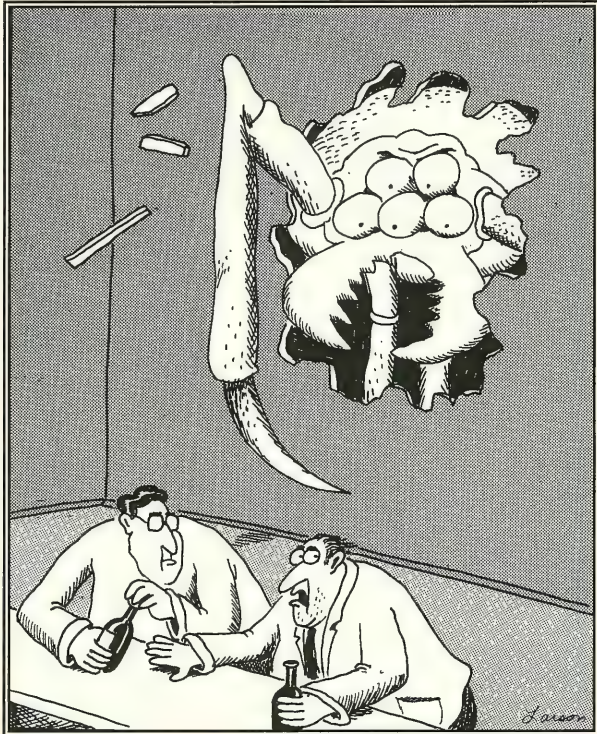
"Ha! Check this out, Andrews. ... Seems there's some kind of ancient curse on those who defile this crypt."

3/13/82



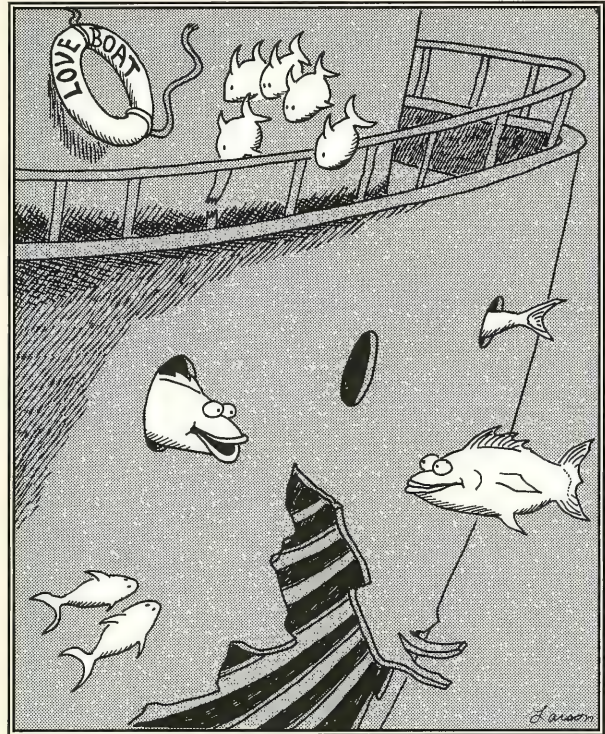
"Dang it! Doris! Hit the light! ... I think there's a mosquito after me!"

3/15/82



"Wait! Wait! ... Don't open
that brand of beer!"

3/16/82



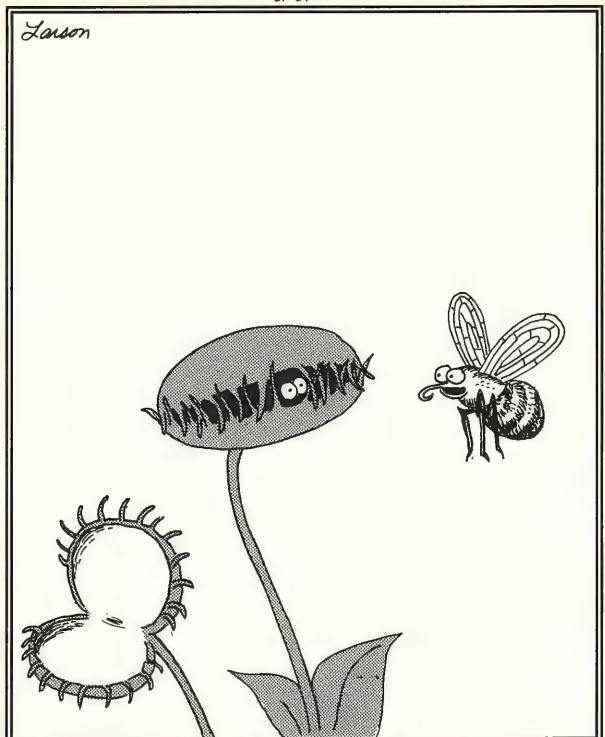
"Hey! Look in here! ... There's all kinds of
cool movie cameras and junk!"

3/17/82

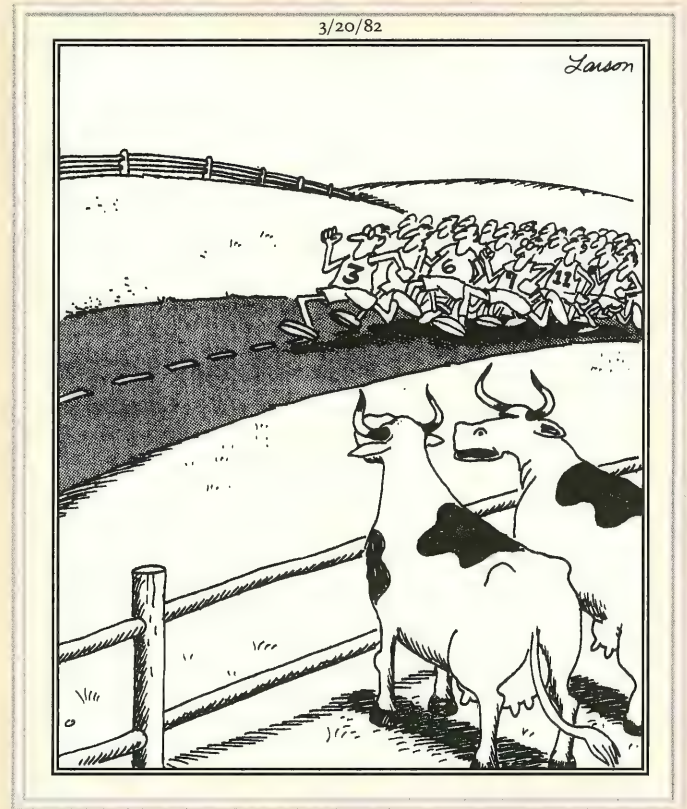
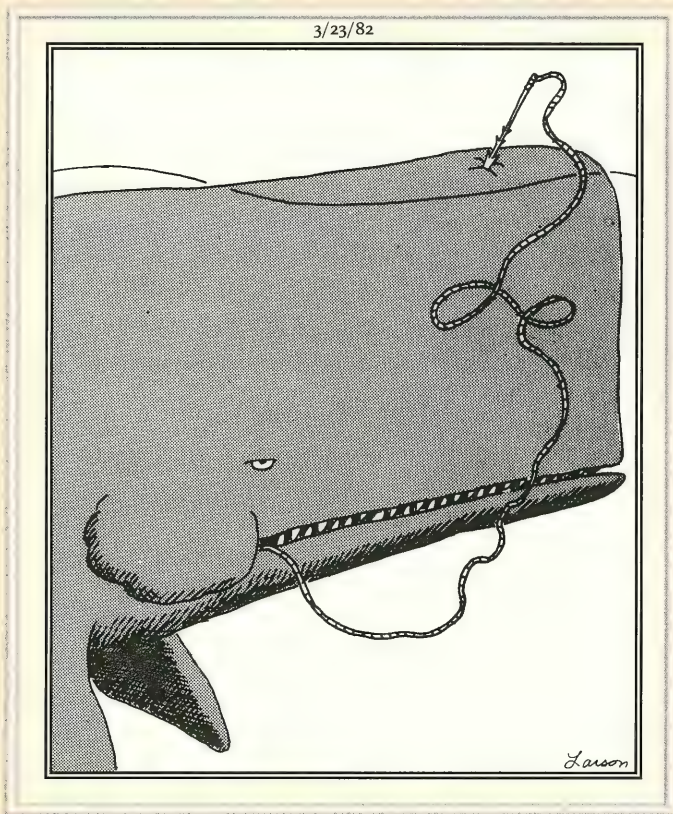


"Aphids! Aphids, Henry! ... Aphids are loose
in the garden!"

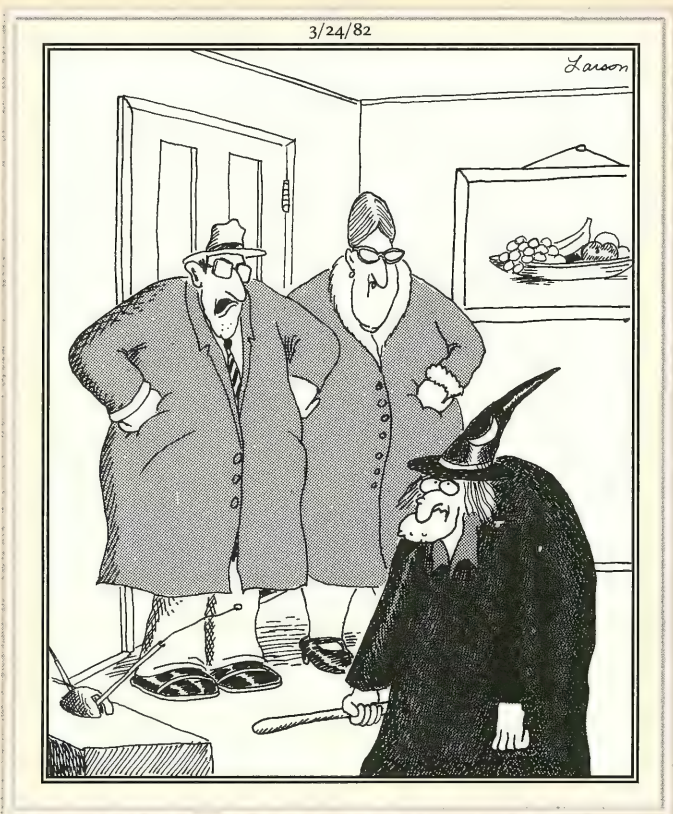
3/19/82



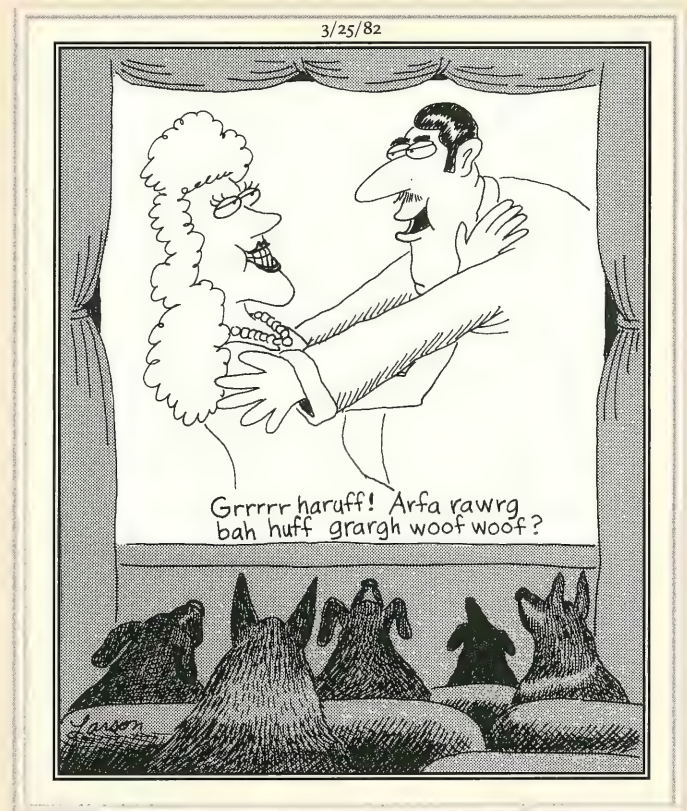
"I don't mean to be callous, Earl, but can
I have your stereo?"



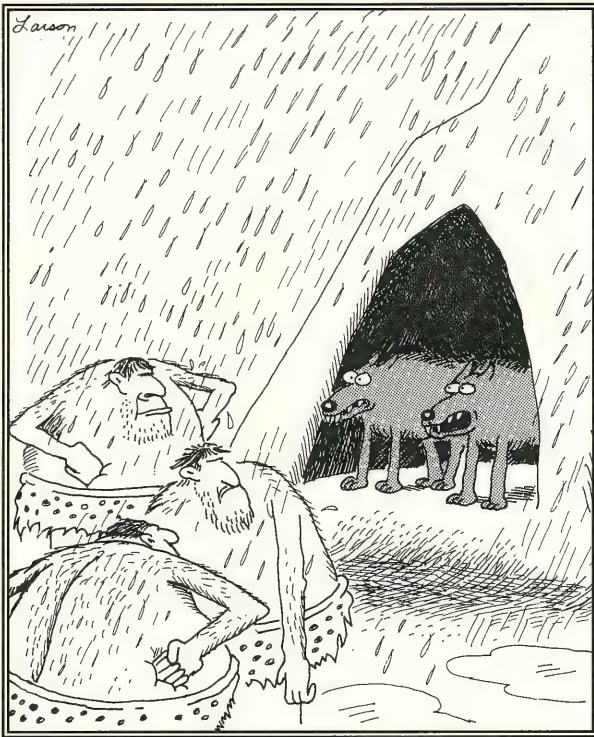
"I'd hate to be in a box canyon with those coming at me!"



"Now let me get this straight. ... We hired you to babysit the kids, and instead you cooked and ate them *both*?"

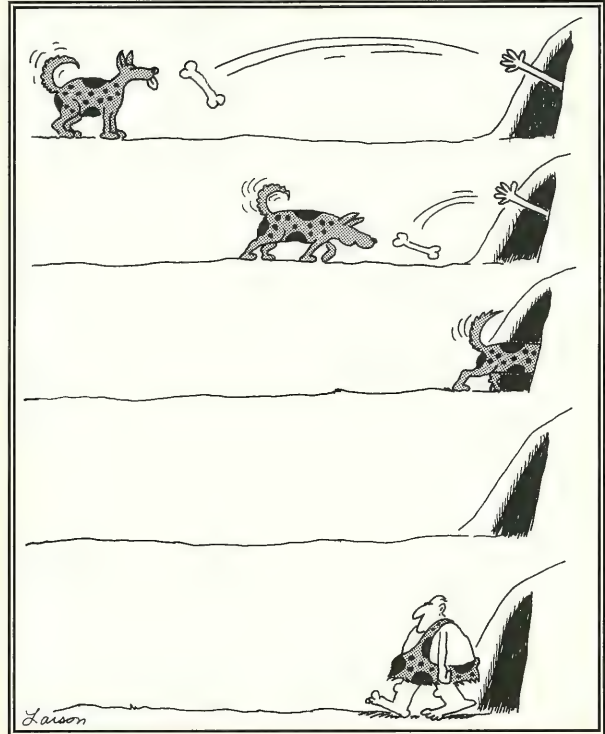


3/26/82



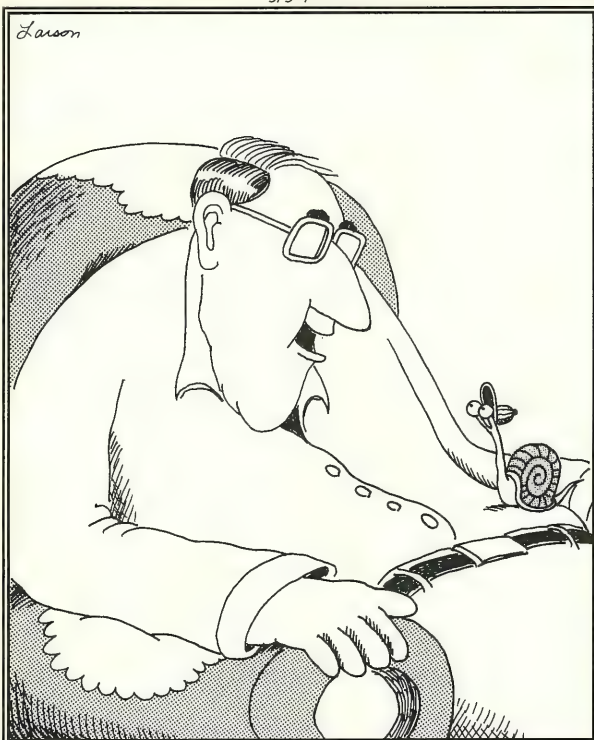
"Be firm, Arnold. ... Let them in once and they'll expect it every time."

3/27/82



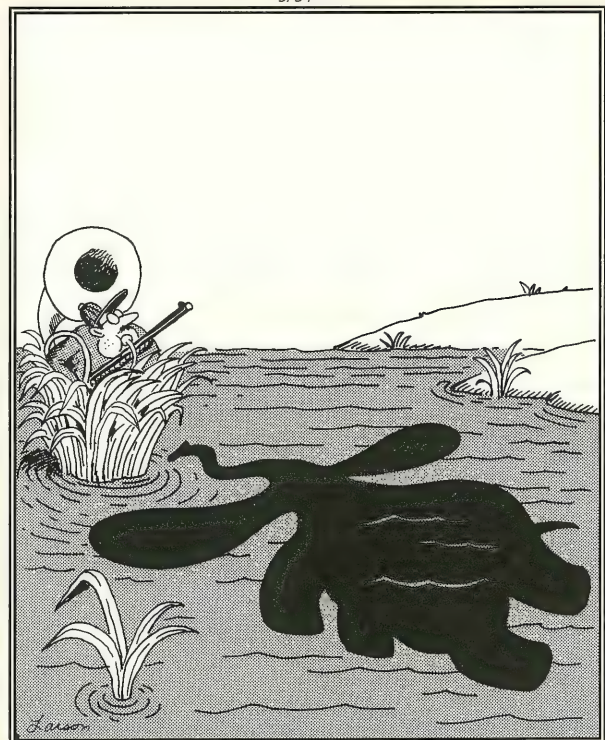
First encounters

3/30/82



"That's right, Jimmy. ... One day your mother and I found you underneath a cabbage leaf."

3/31/82

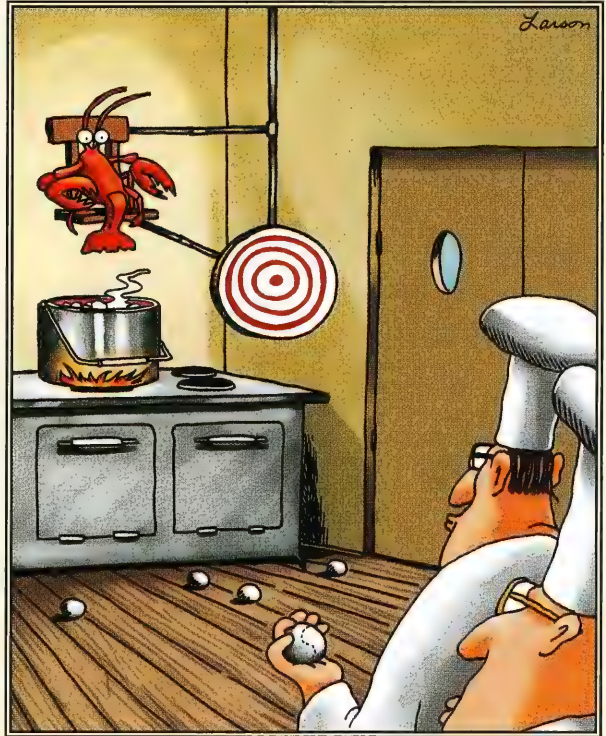


3/18/82



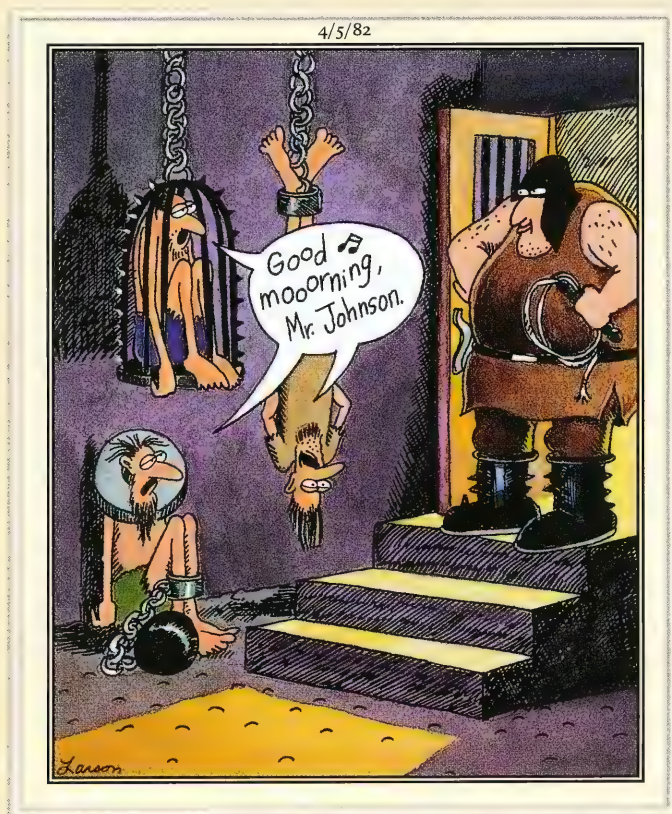
"Now that constellation, Jimmy, is simply called 'The Big Dip.'"

3/22/82



3/29/82





Los Angeles Times
Comics

I cannot understand the cleverness of this Gary Larson. Do these come from the inmates of prisons & are sold to him which he in turn sells (them) to you?

What lies behind these warped cartoons? I wish some one would clear their meaning (of them) to me.

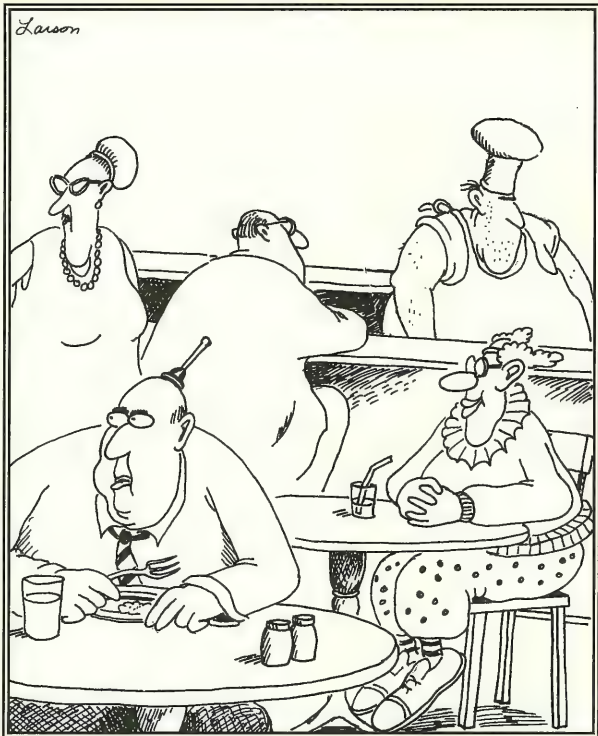
To me they are a waste of space and are an insult to a L.A. Times reader who can find no reason for them in your newspaper.

R. E. Lewis

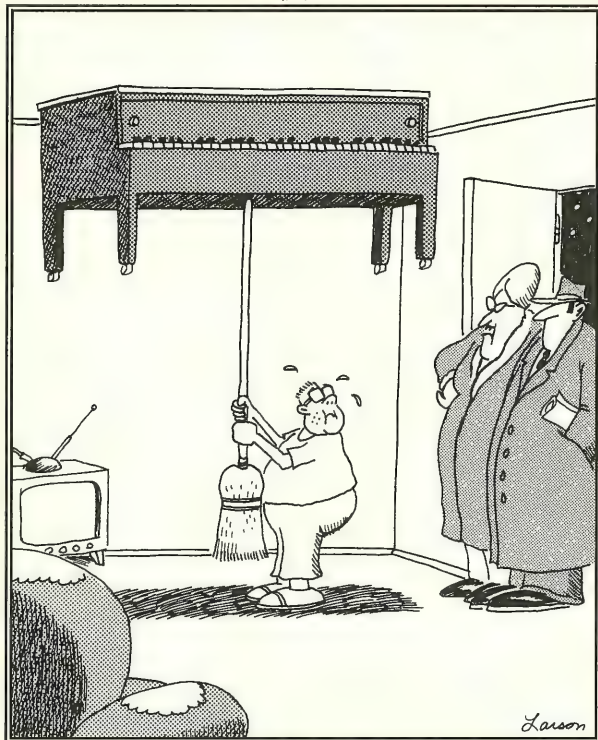
4/1/82



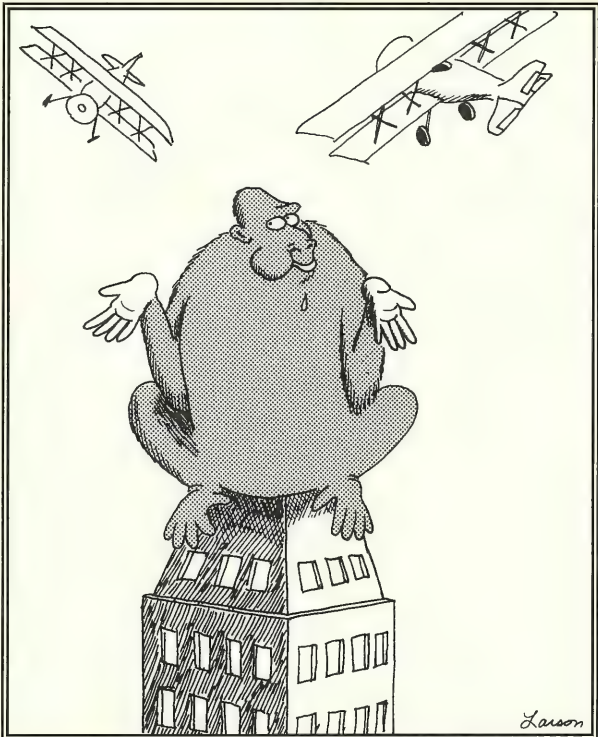
4/3/82



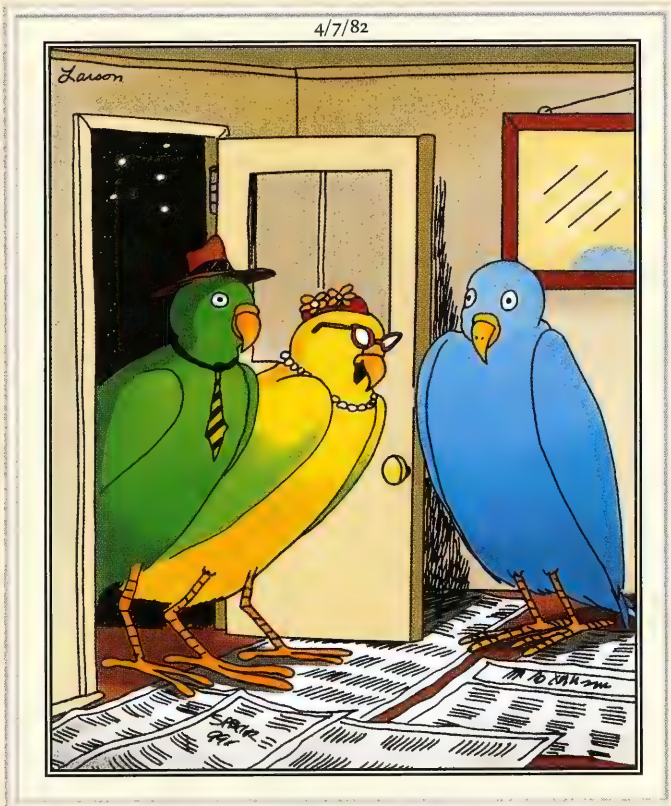
4/6/82



4/8/82



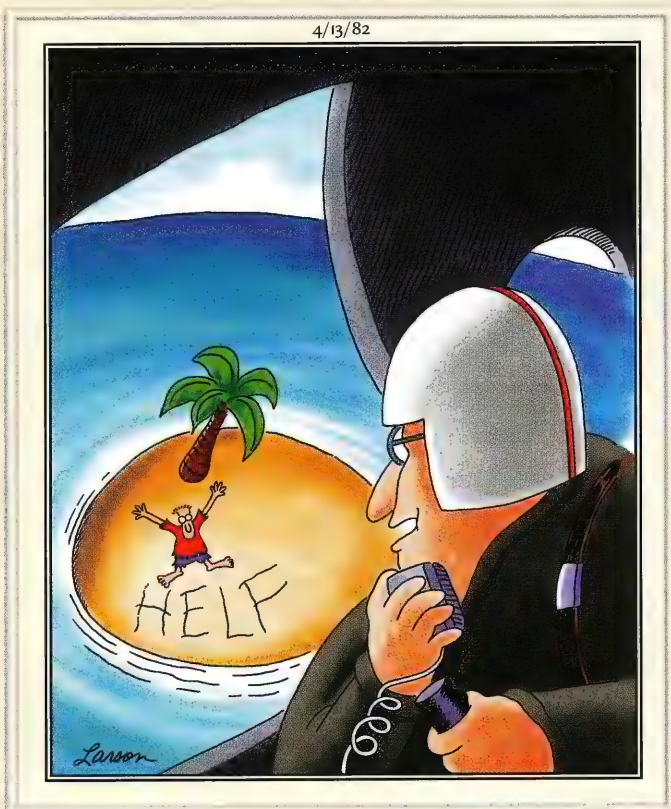
“So, Billy! Seems your father and I can never
leave without you getting yourself into
some kind of trouble!”



"What a lovely home, Edna! ... And look at the fresh newspaper, Stanley!"

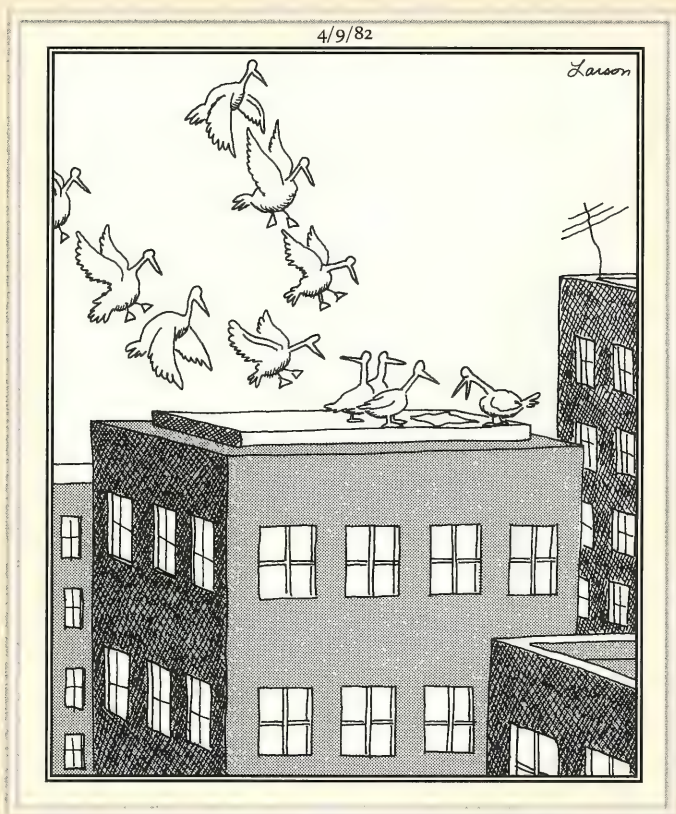


Early stages of math anxiety

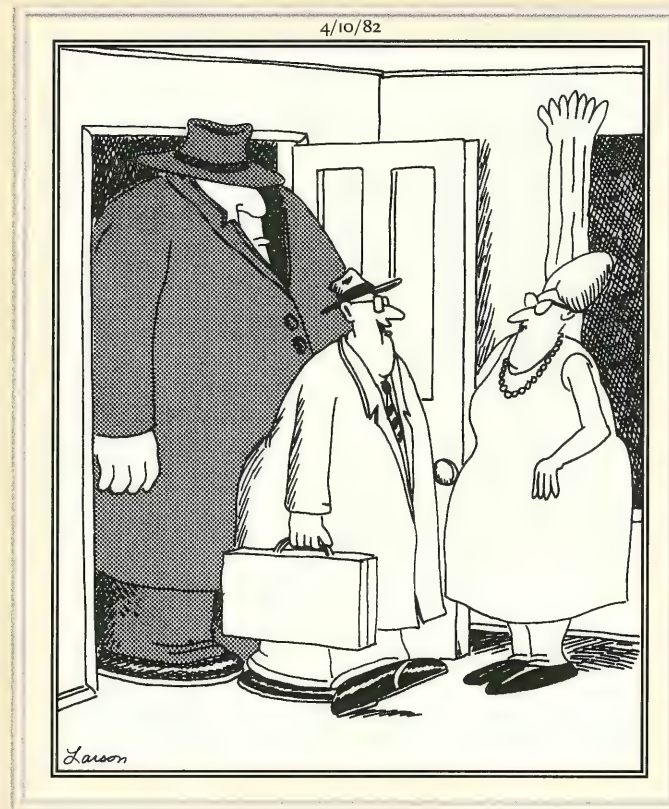


"Wait! Wait! Cancel that. ... I guess it says 'helf.'"

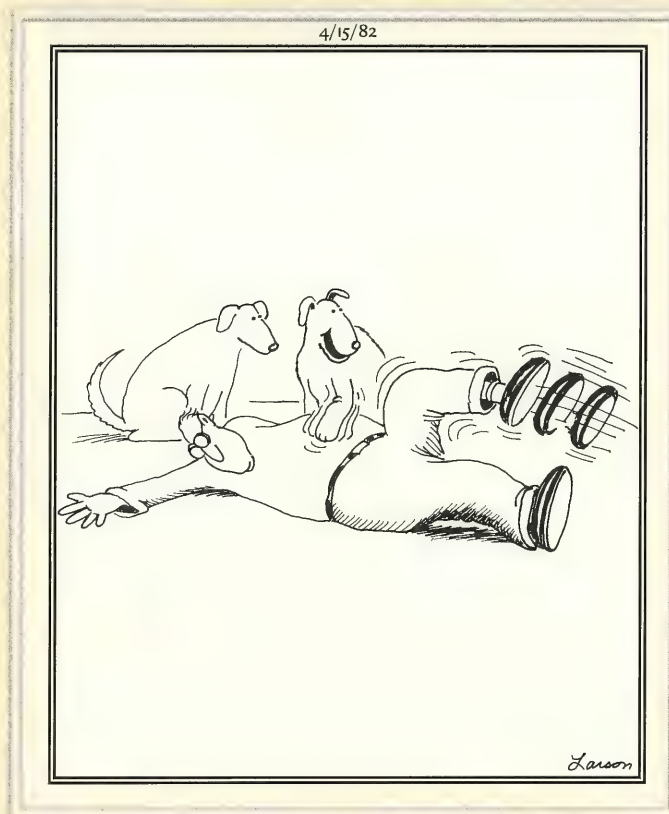
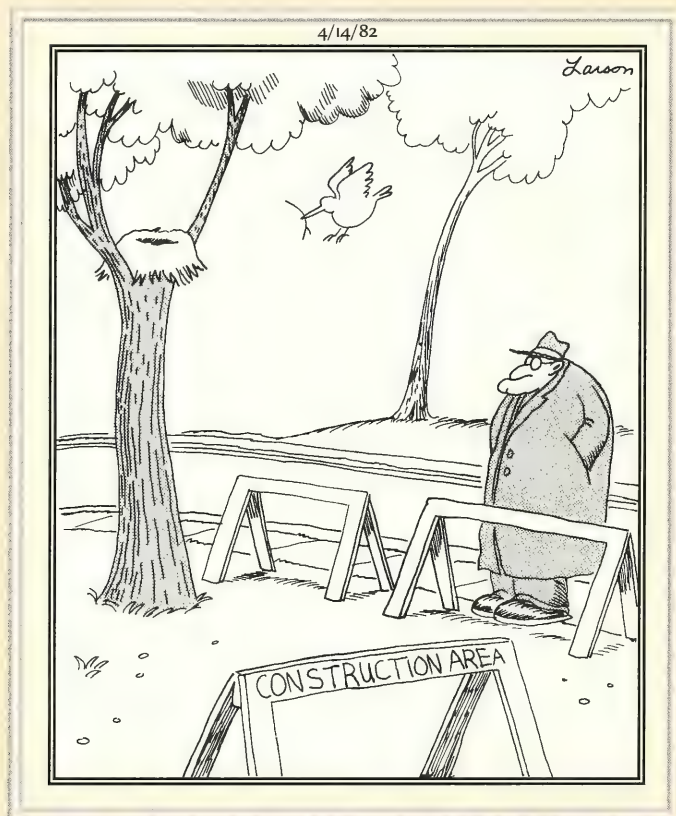




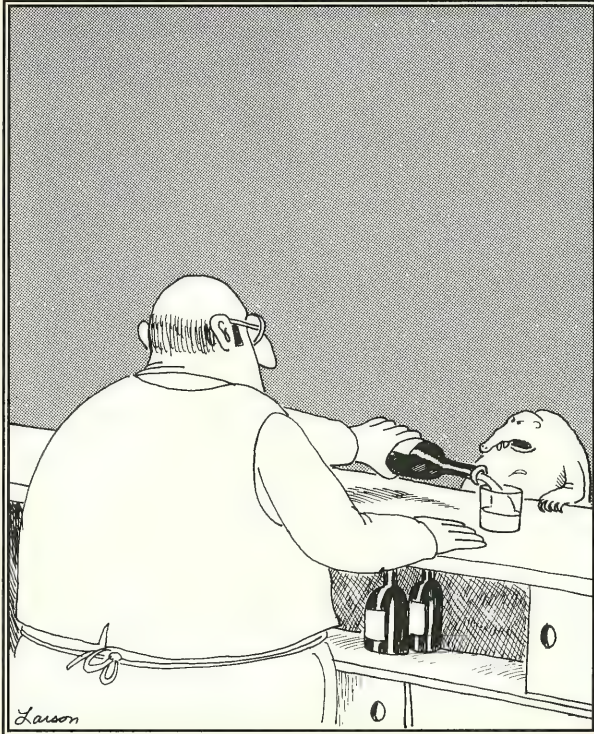
"For crying out loud! ... We were supposed to turn south after that last mountain range!"



"I found him in the park. ... I pulled a thorn from his foot and he just sort of followed me home."

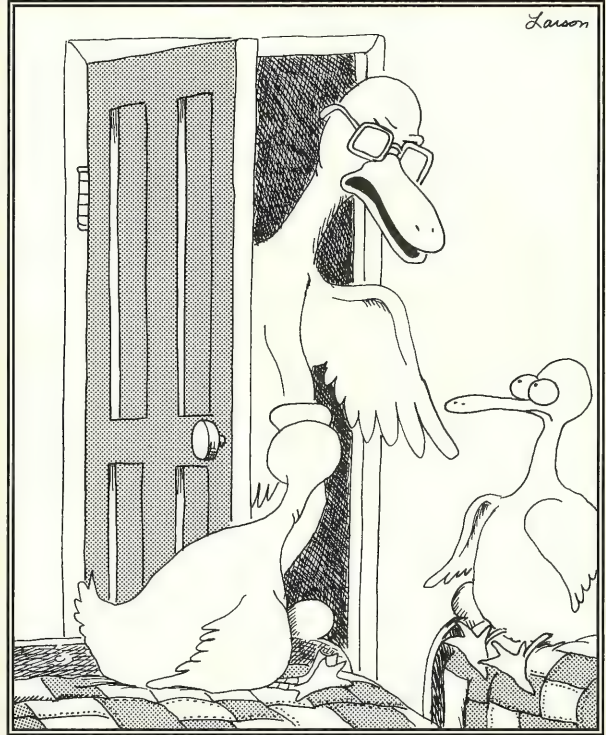


4/16/82



"Sho I shez to her, 'Hey, look! I'm tired of livin' in this hole, diggin' dirt, and eatin' worms!'"

4/19/82



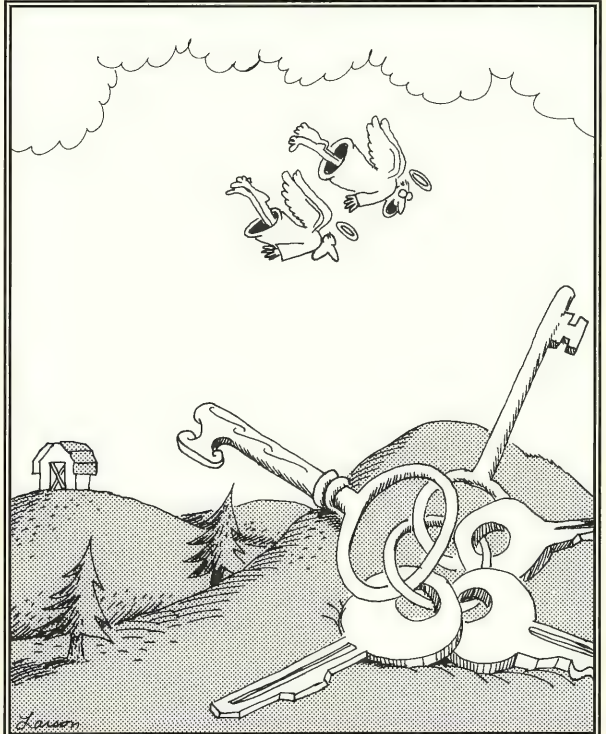
"I'm not telling you kids again! ... Stand on one leg, turn your head straight back, and go to sleep!"

4/20/82

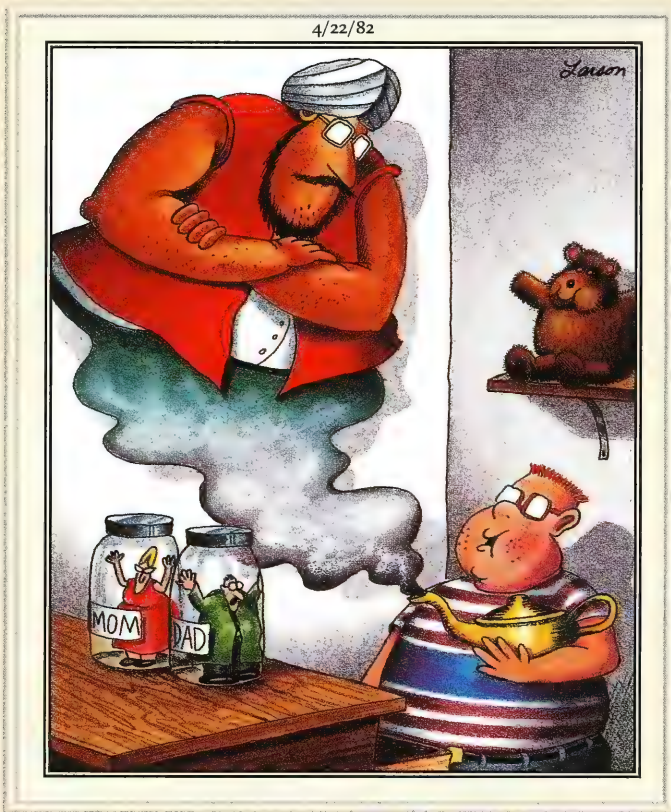


"Wouldn't you know it! ... A quiet day at the beach, and a real person shows up!"

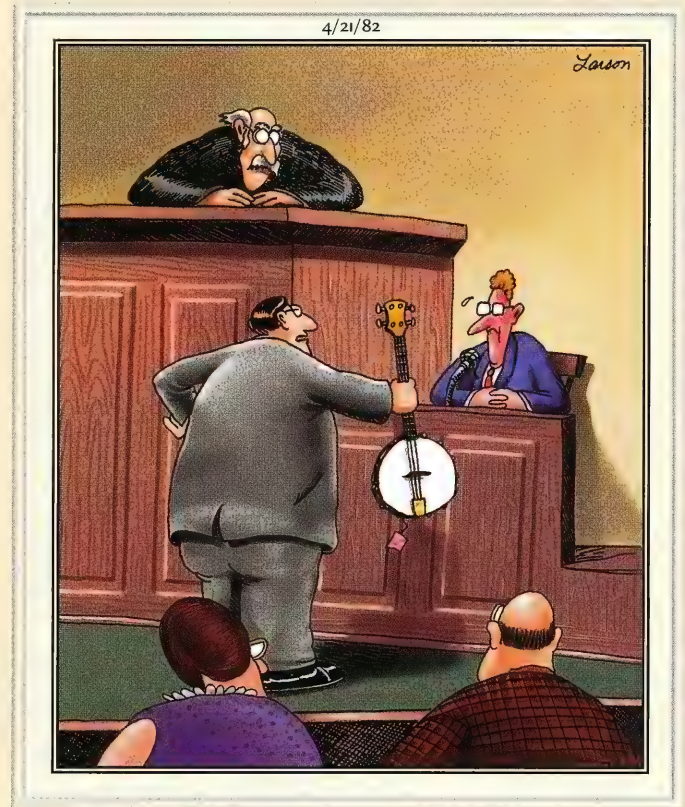
4/23/82



"Quick! ... Run up and tell Him we found them!"



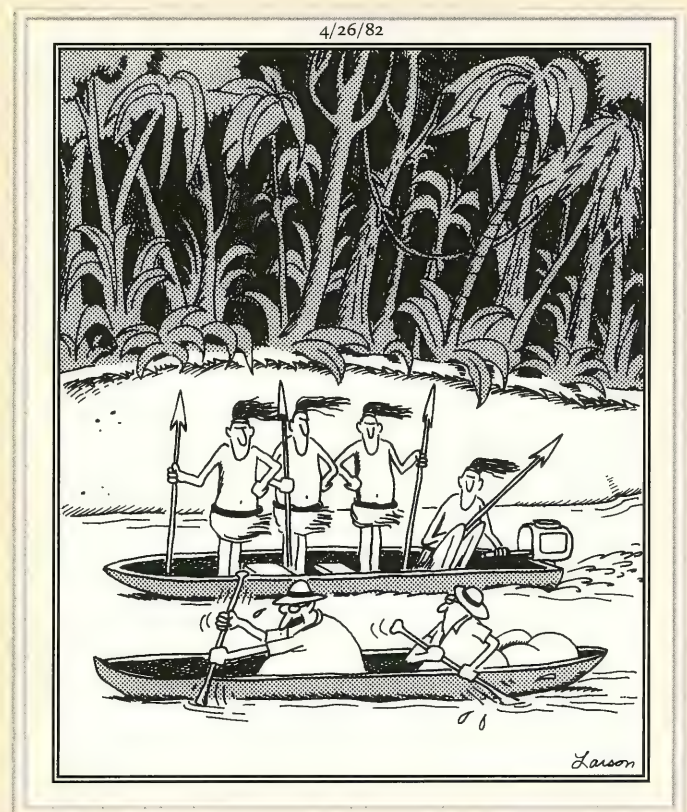
"Gee, whiz ... you mean I get a *third* wish, too?"



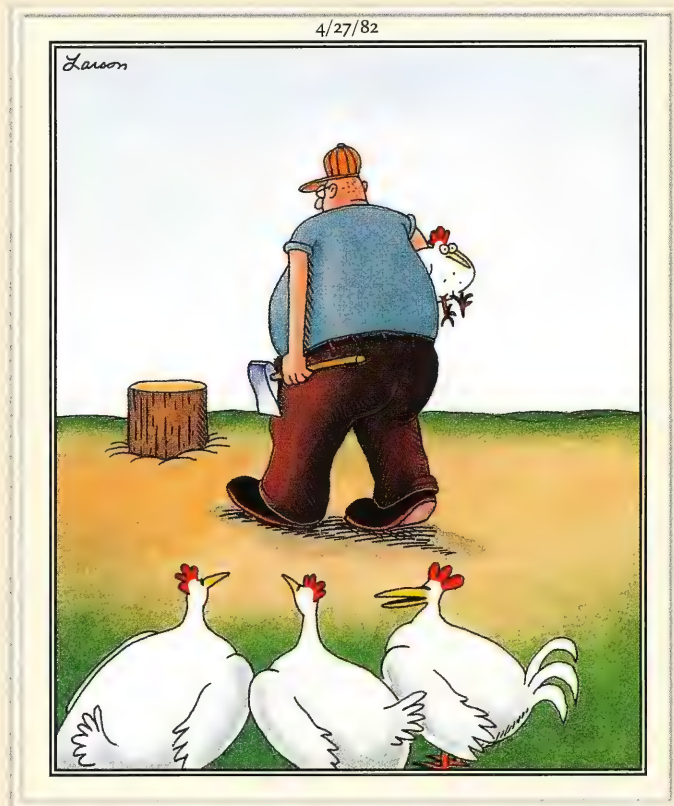
"So! You admit that this is, indeed, your banjo the police found at the scene, but you expect this jury to believe you were never in the kitchen with Dinah?"



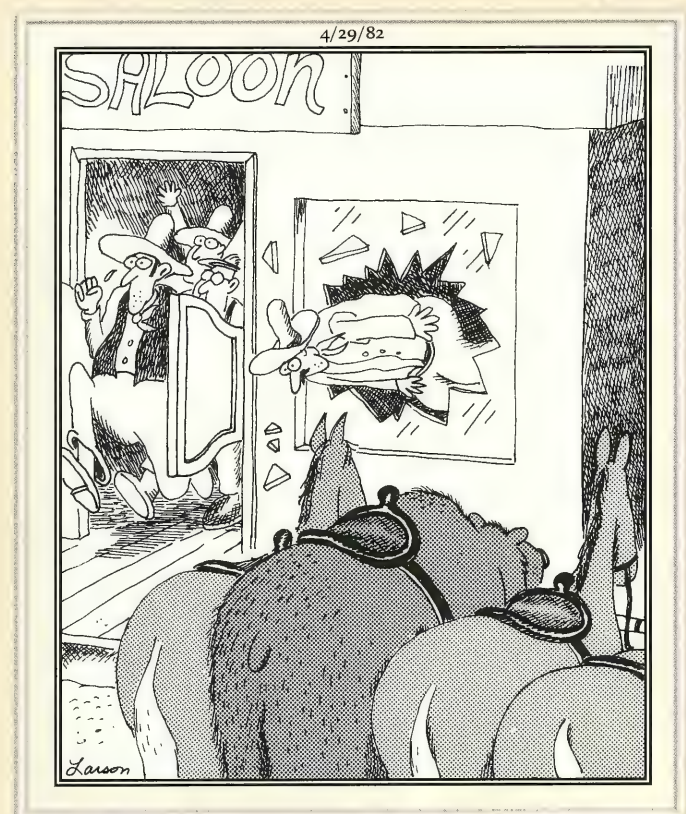
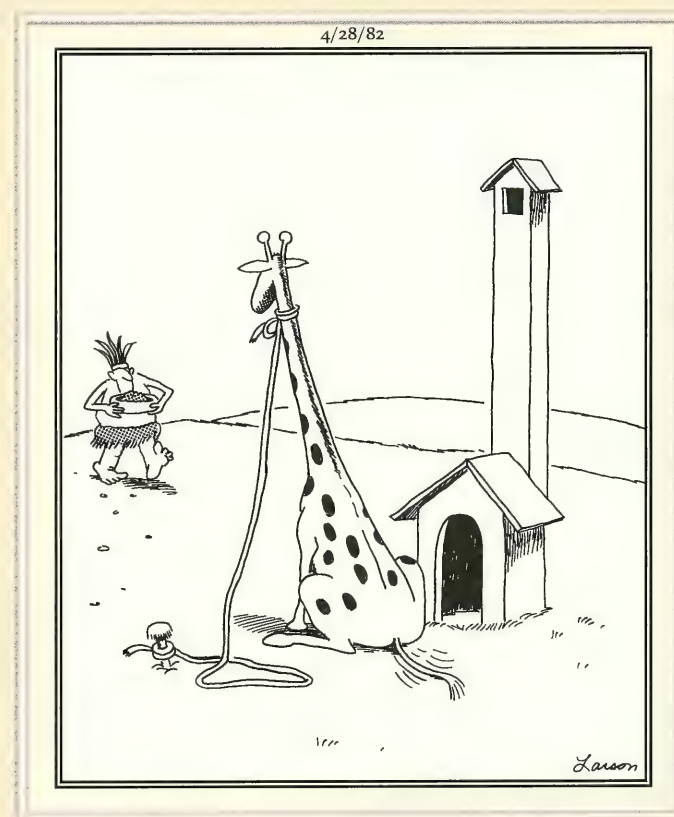
"Oh, c'mon now. ... I know! Why don't you two go downstairs today and build a monster?"

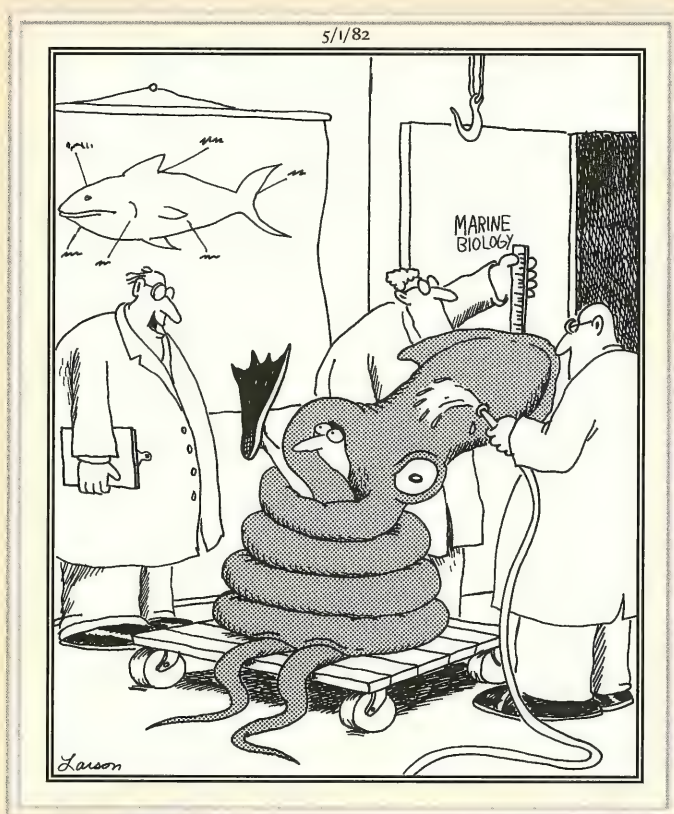


"Are they gaining, Huxley?"

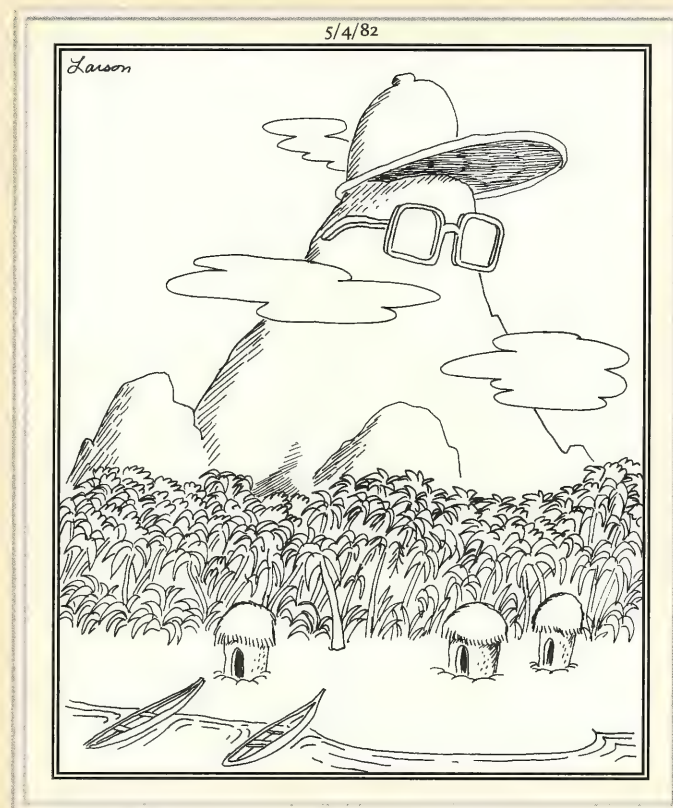


"Well, when it's my turn, I just hope I go quietly. ... You know—without a lot of running around."





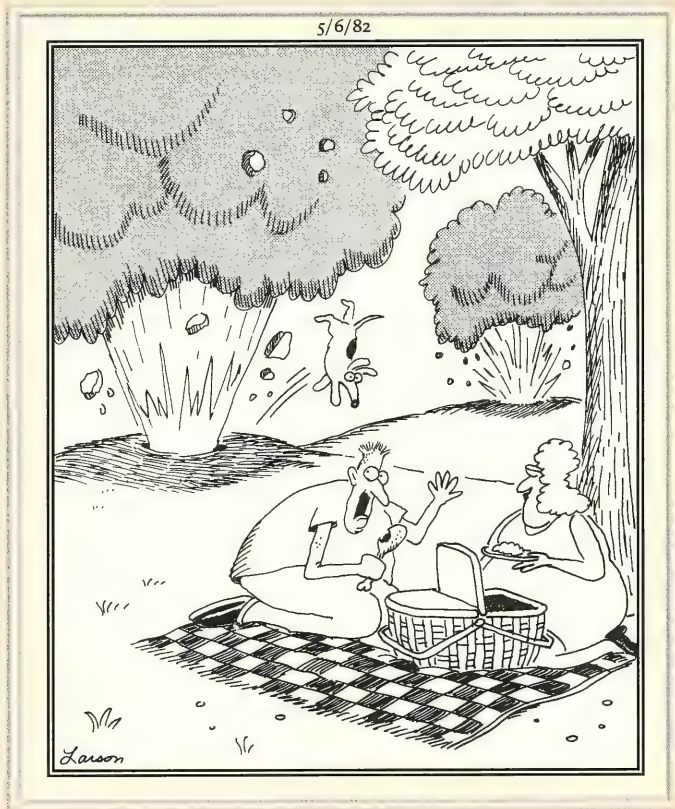
"Excuse our excitement, Mr. Farnsworth, but your cries for help have afforded science a rare opportunity."



The volcano god of the Nerdesians



"What? ... You mean *no one* brought the buns?"



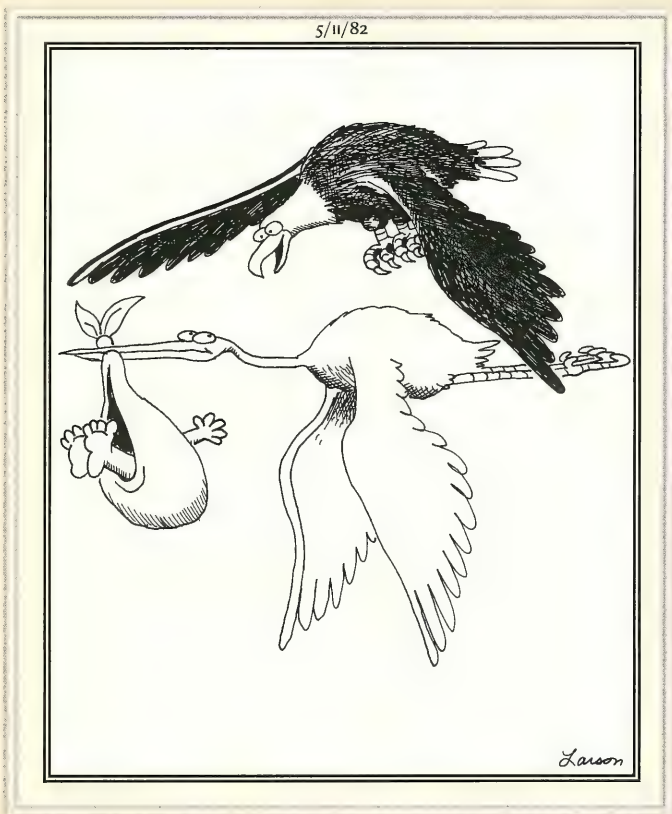
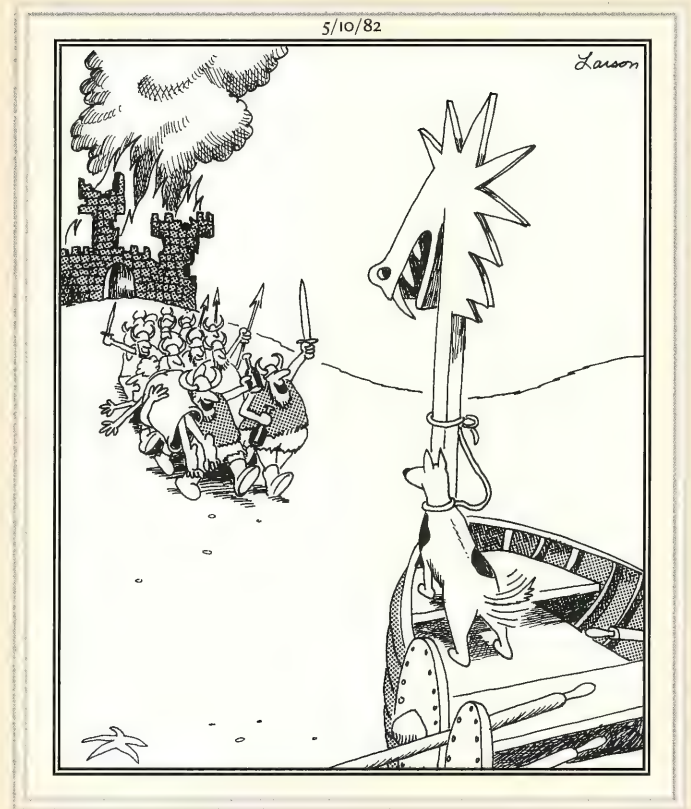
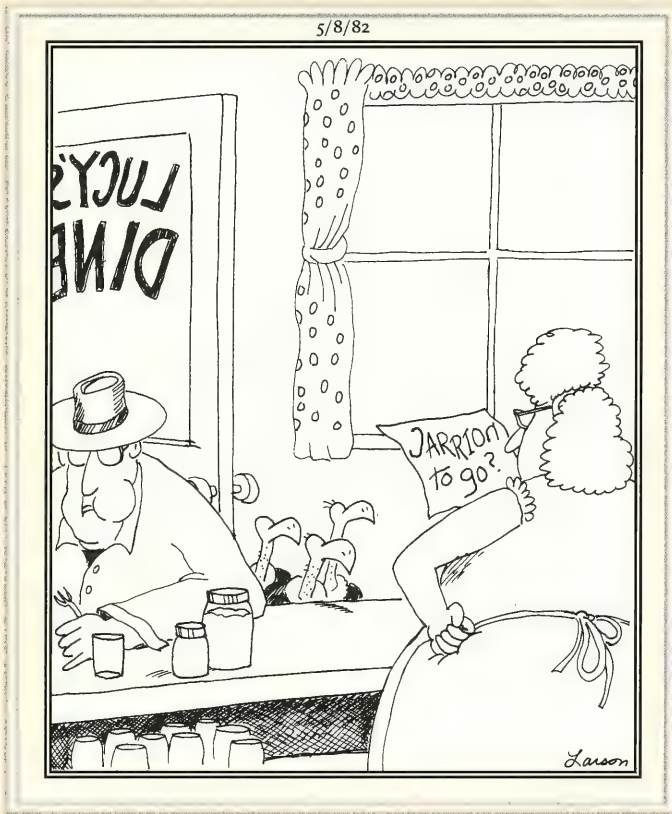
"ARMY ANTS!"



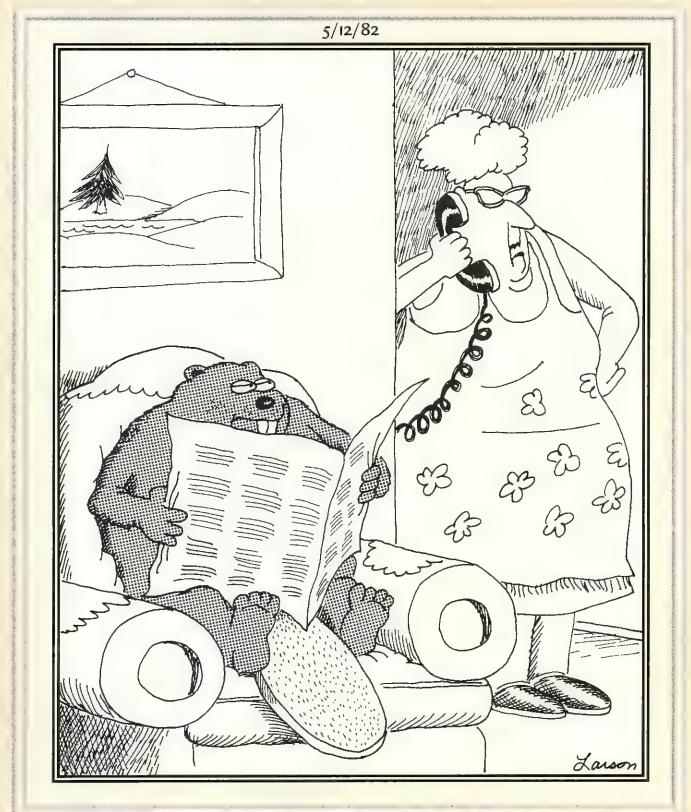
"See, Agnes? ... It's just Kevin."



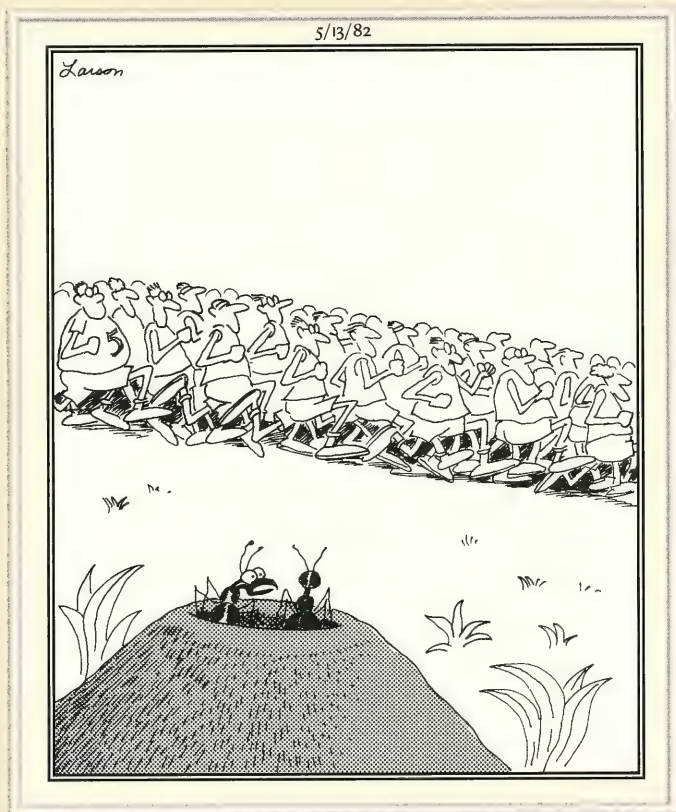
"Sorry to bother you, Sylvia, but your Henry's over here and he's got my cat treed again."



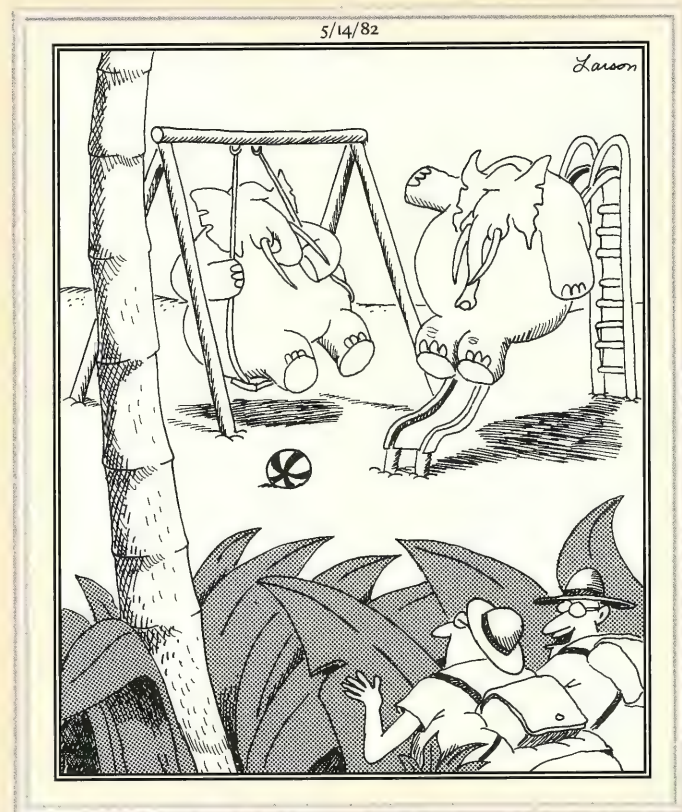
"Say ... would you like to contribute to an endangered species?"



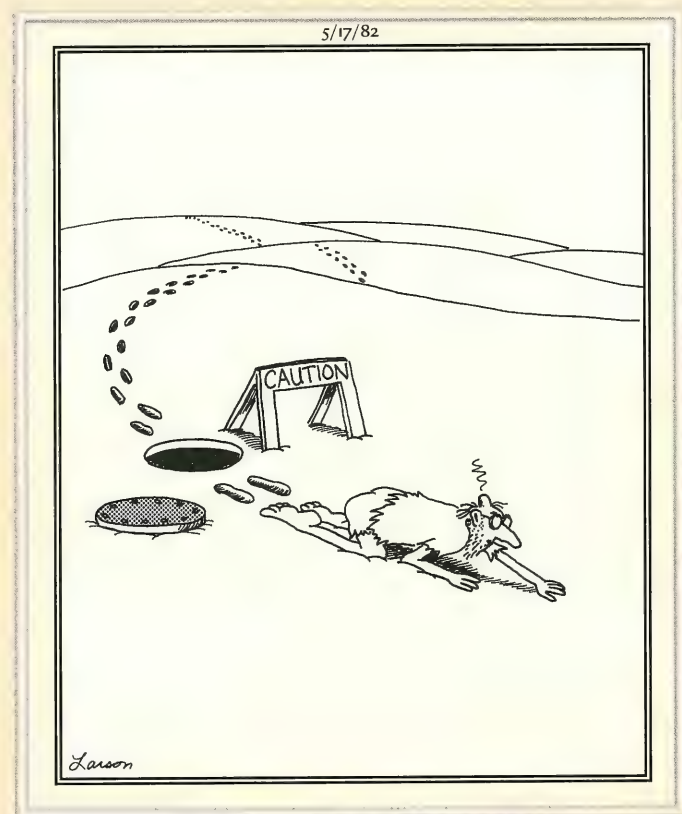
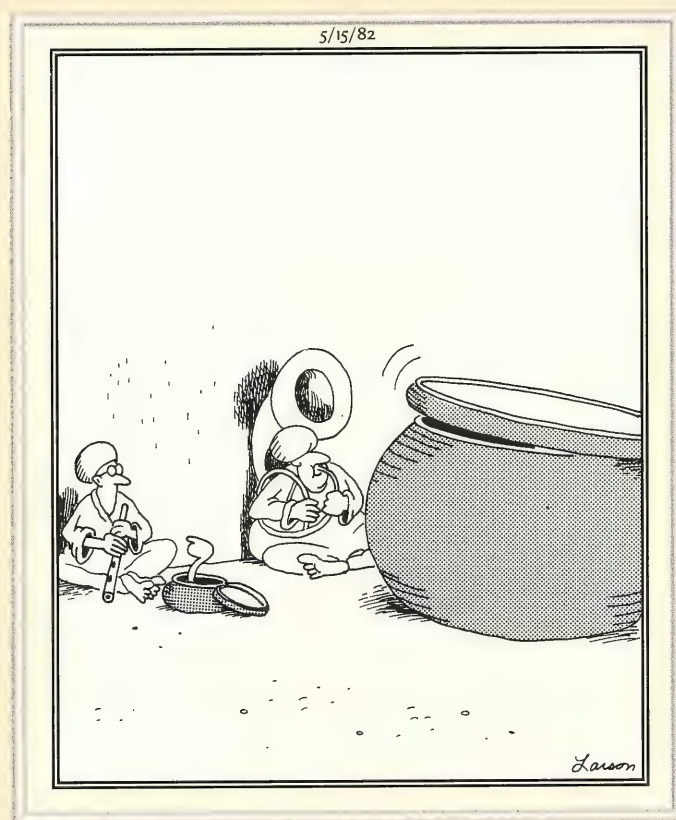
"No, he's not busy. ... In fact, that whole thing is just a myth."

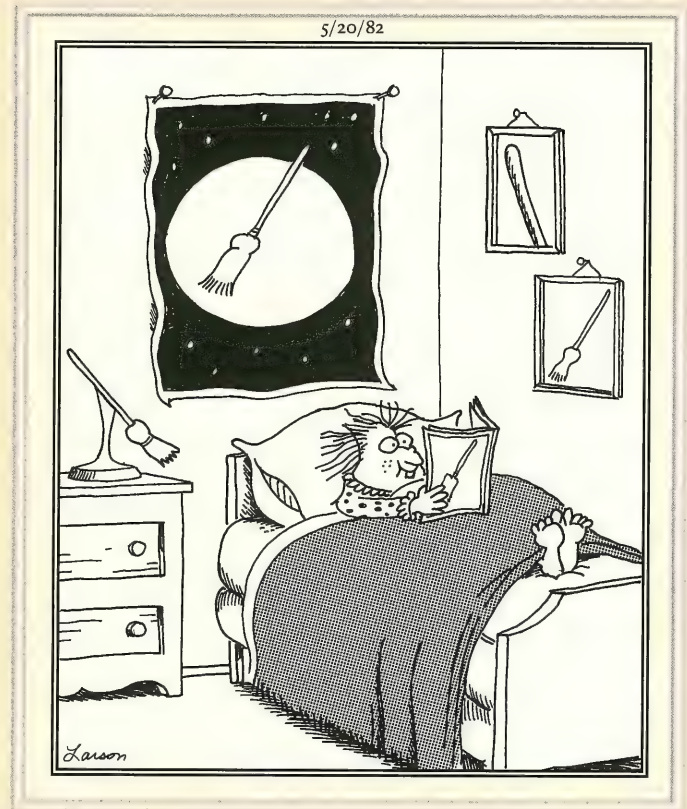
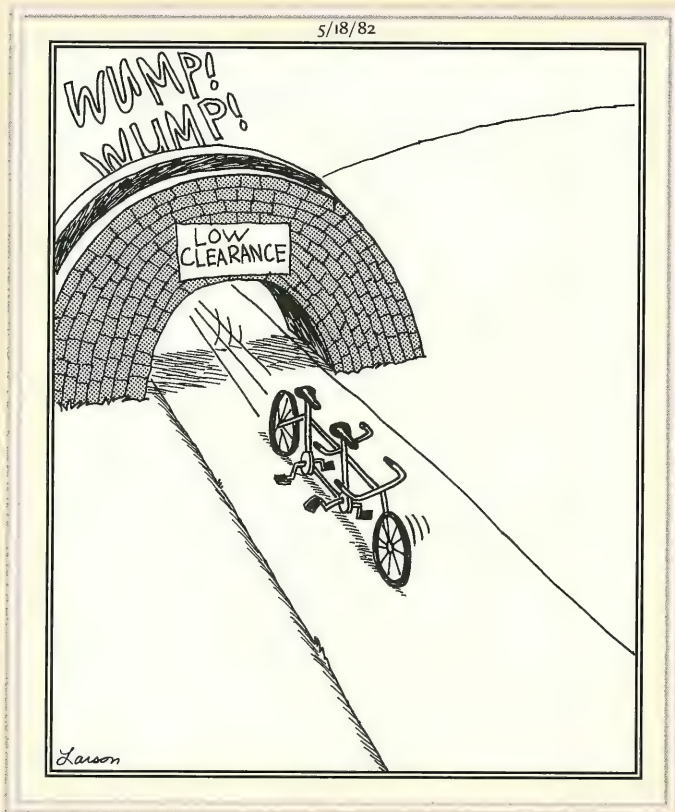


"Uh-oh ... I think Bobby Joe went foraging in that direction."

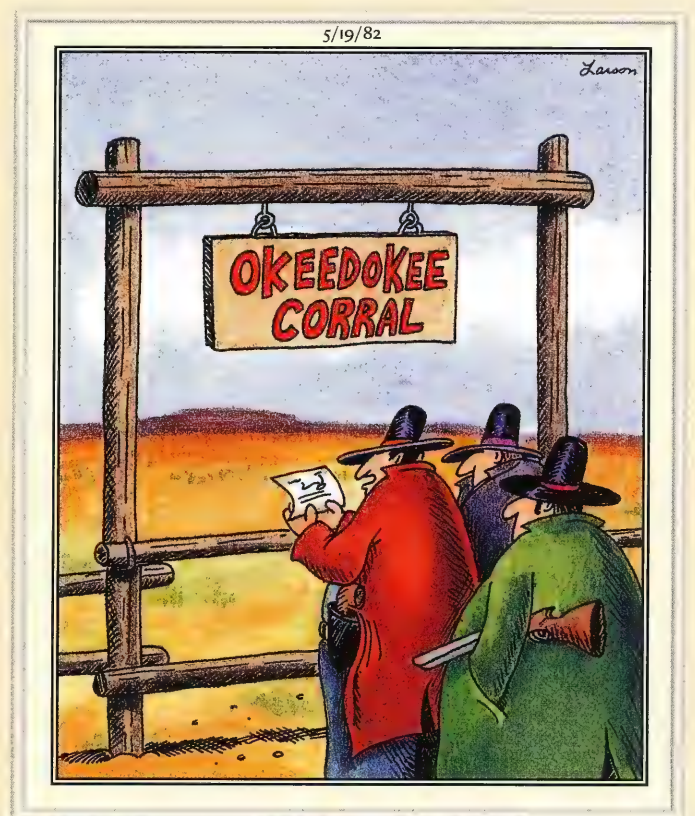


"By Jove! We've found it, Simmons! ... The Secret Elephant Playground!"

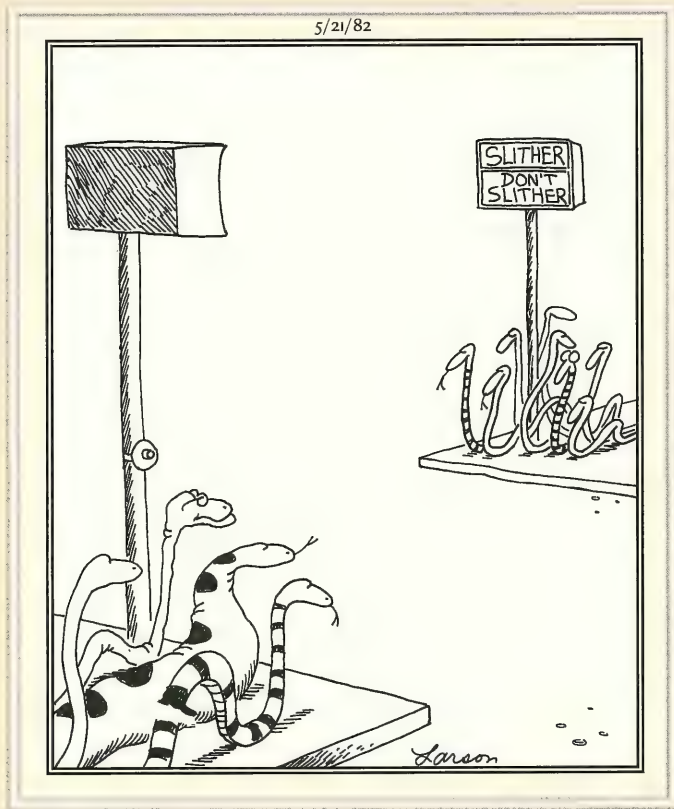




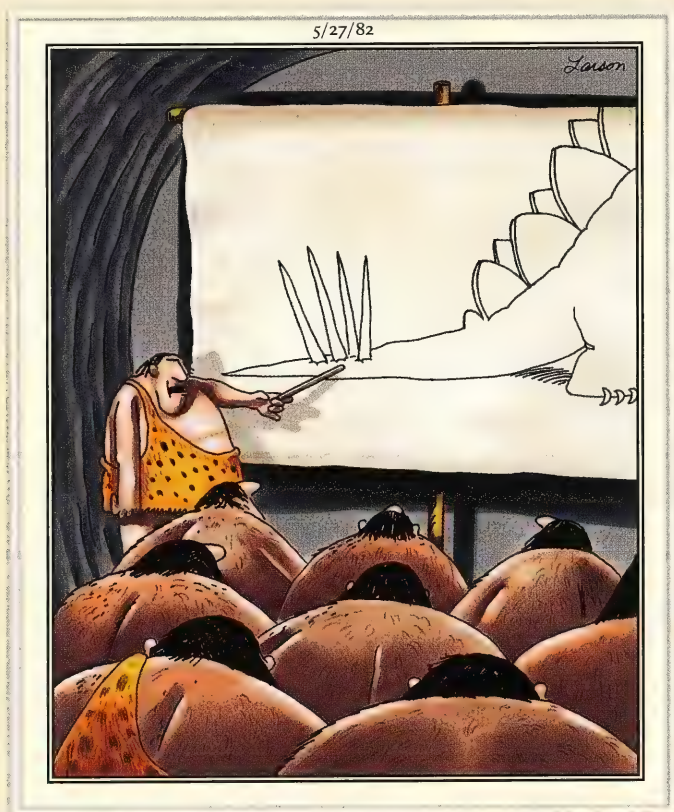
Never, never do this.



"Well, no wonder! ... This ain't the place."



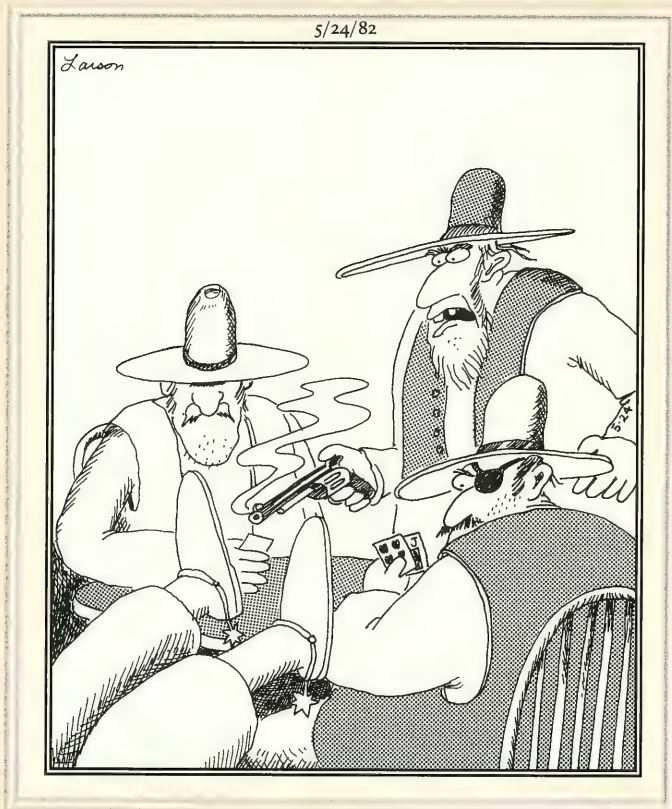
Early Man



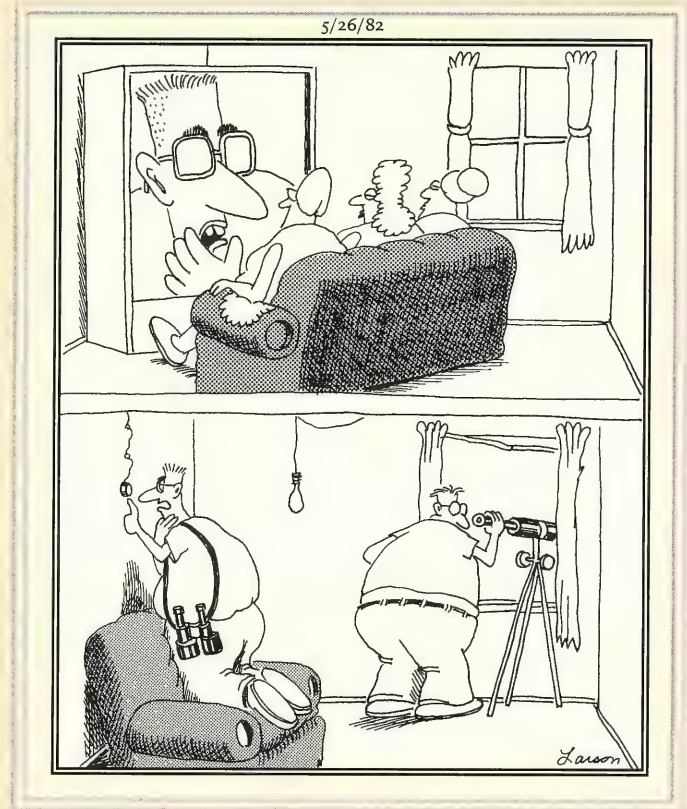
"Now, this end is called the thagomizer ... after the late Thag Simmons."



"On the other hand, gentlemen, what if we gave a war and everybody came?"



"Dirty, low-down skunk! ... I saw him slip that last card from his sleeve just before he yelled 'Fish!'"



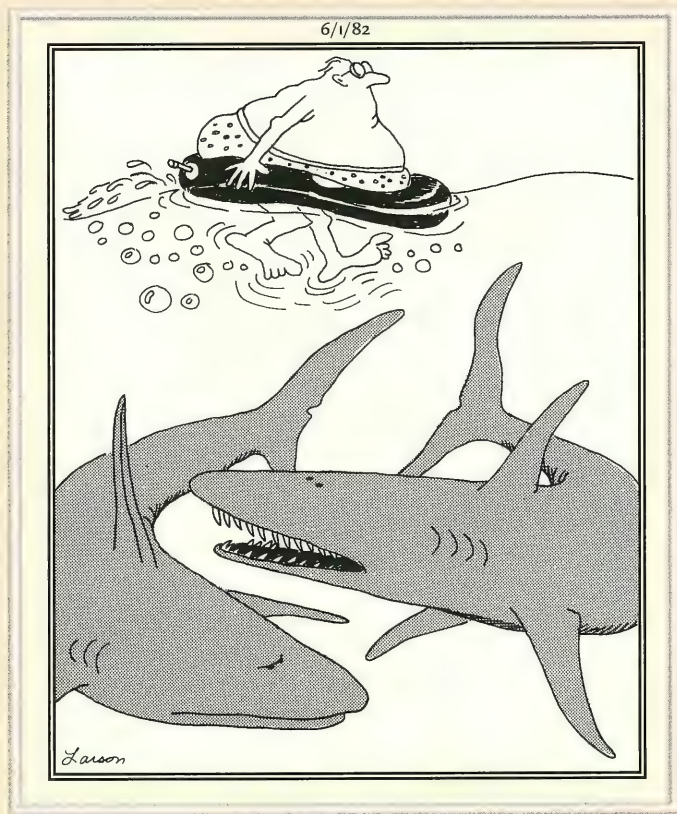
"Say, Carl ... forget the Hendersons for a second and come look at this thing."



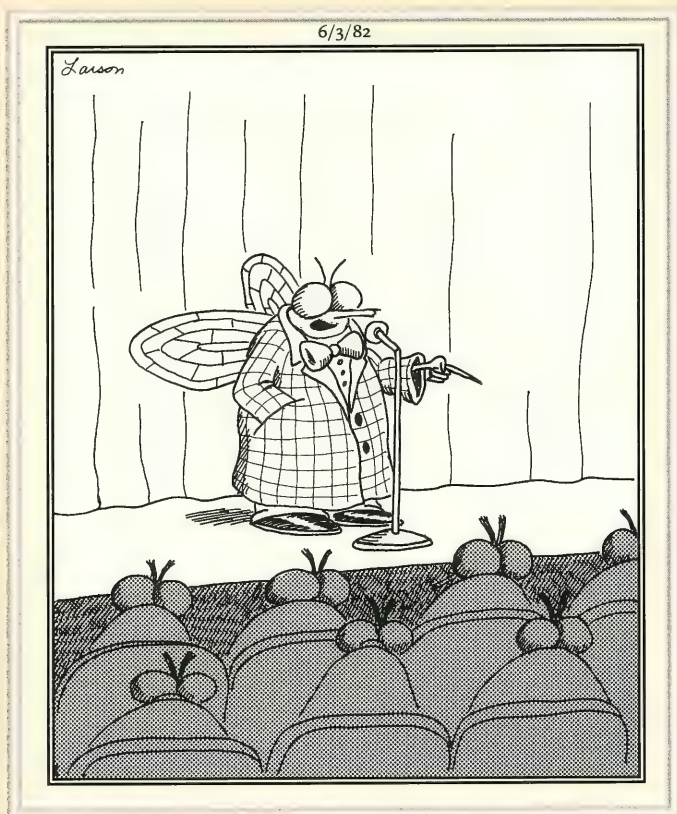
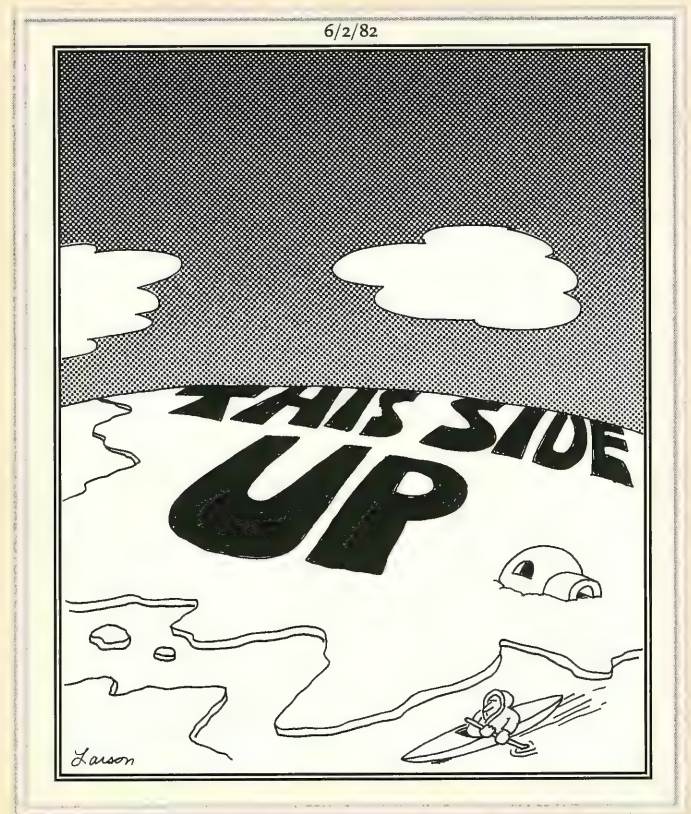
After 23 uneventful years at the zoo's snakehouse, curator Ernie Schwartz has a cumulative attack of the willies.



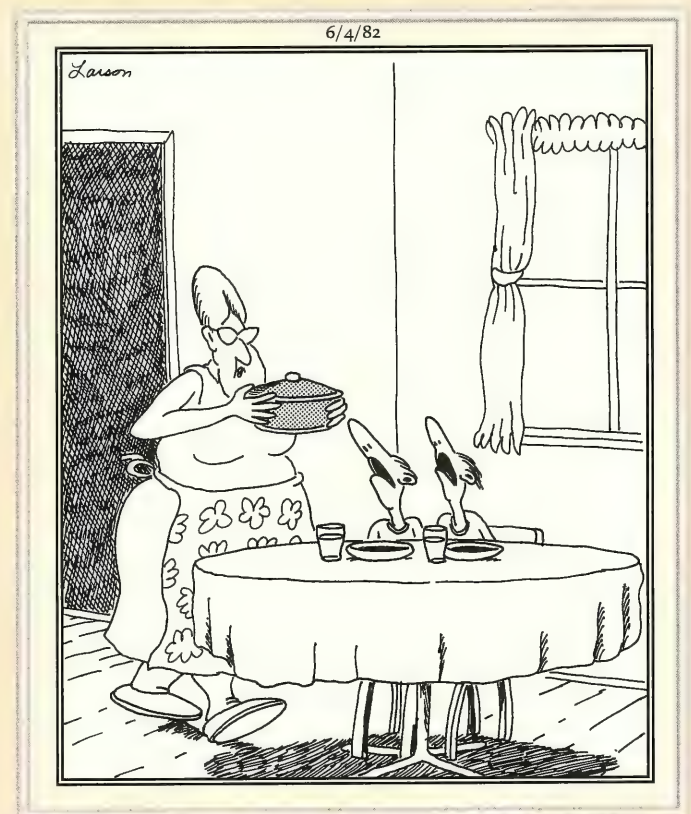
"Well, well ... seems we've found what's been causing that ringing sensation in your ear, Mr. Foley."



"I'm tempted, but it looks really high in cholesterol."



"Larry? Betty? ... Stand up, will ya? ... These are some friends of mine, folks, who flew all the way in from the dump."



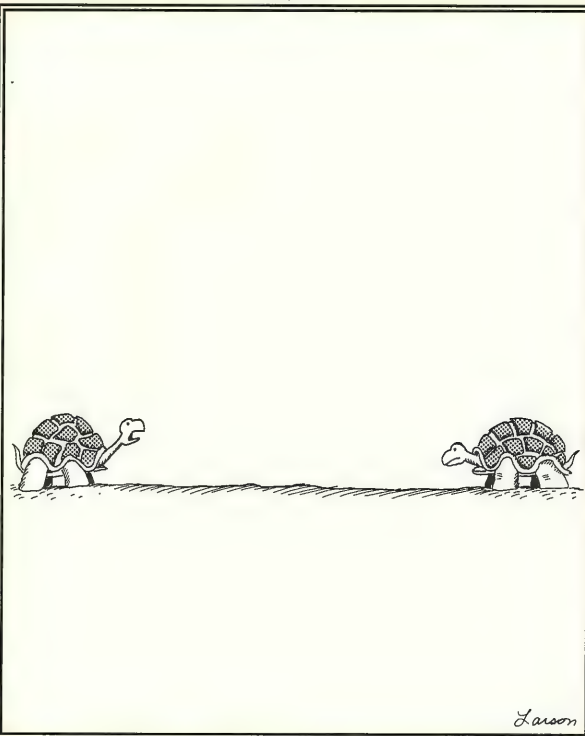
Dinnertime for the young Wright brothers

6/5/82



"Well, that should do it. ... When Mr. Warner comes around, make sure he gets all the ice cream he wants."

6/7/82

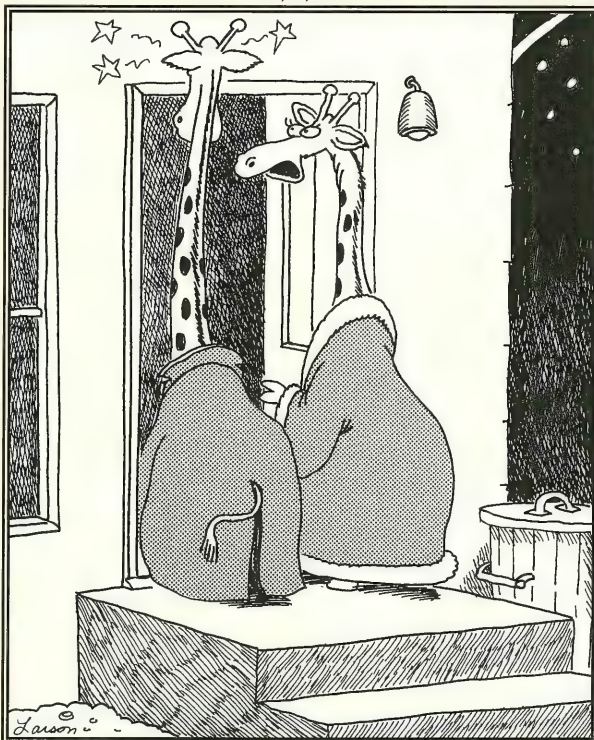


"This is it, Carl! ... We head straight at each other and the first one to veer off is 'chicken.'"

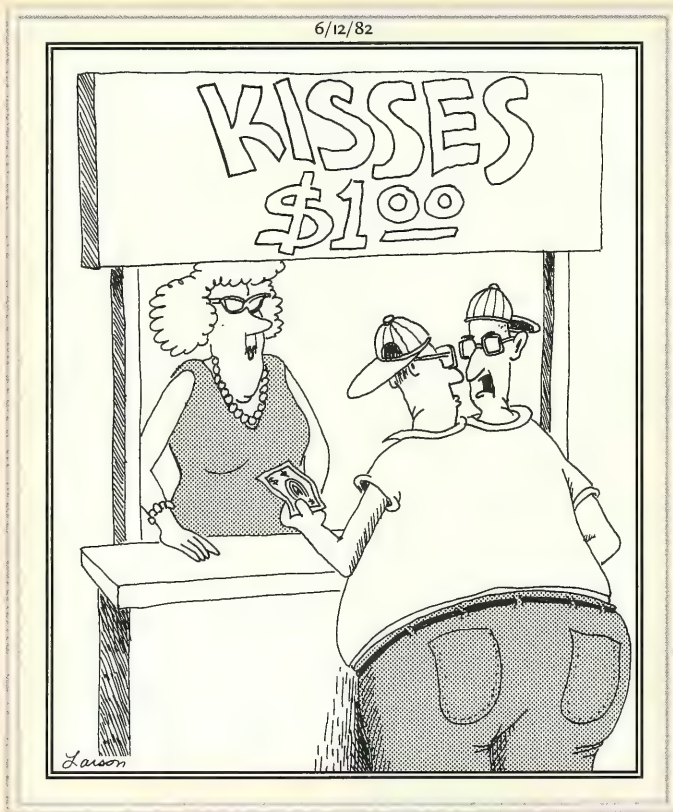
6/8/82



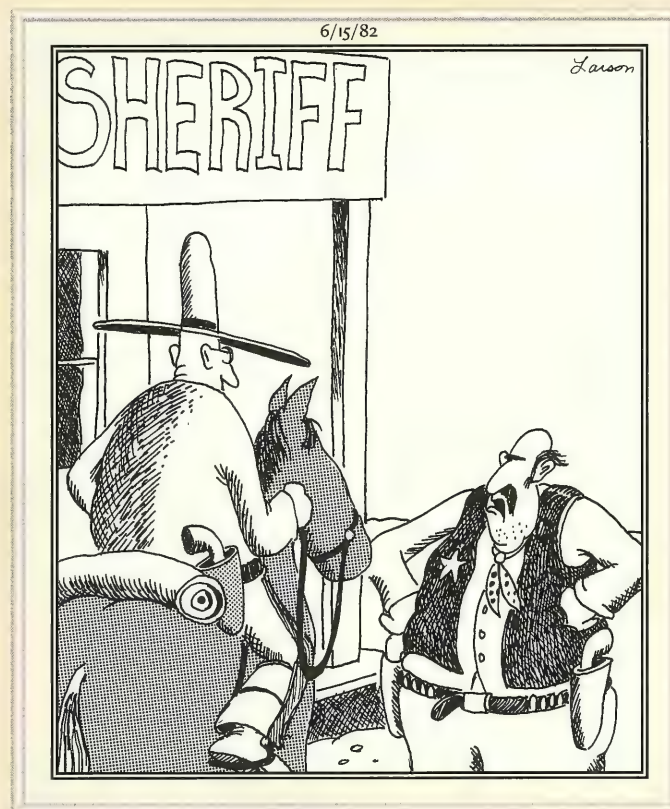
6/10/82



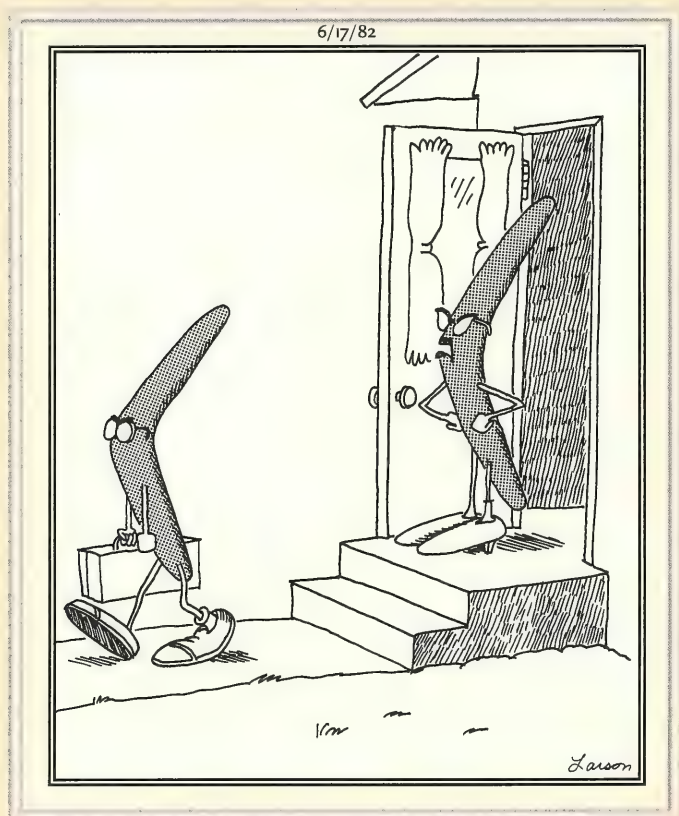
"I say it every time, 'Watch your head, Frank! Watch your head!'... But do you listen?"



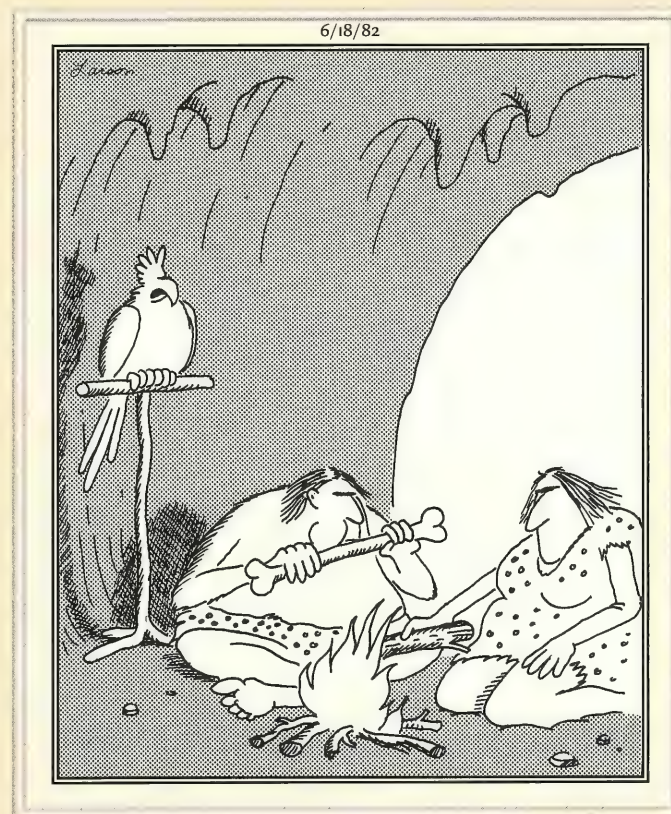
"It's *my* turn, Randy! Or I warn you ... I'll start making weird sucking sounds again!"



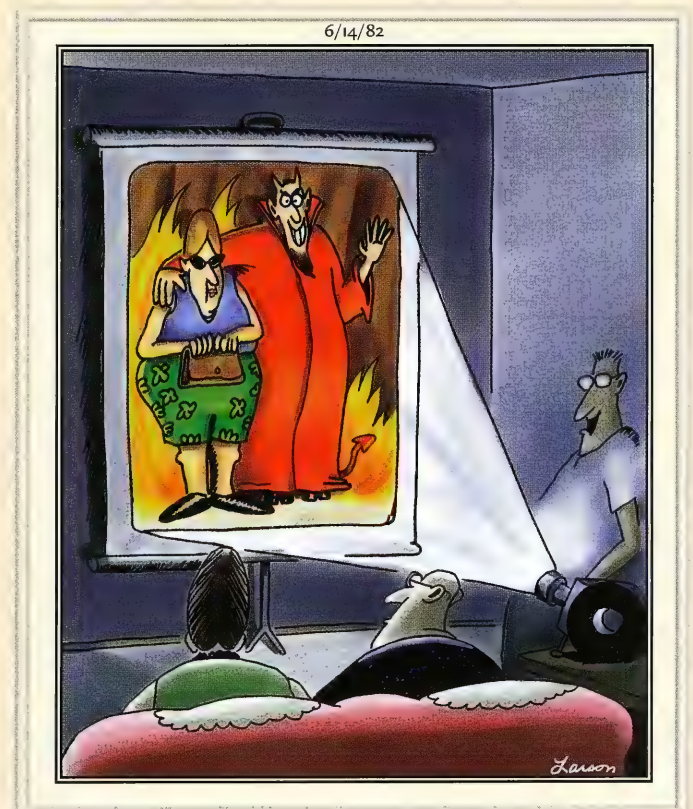
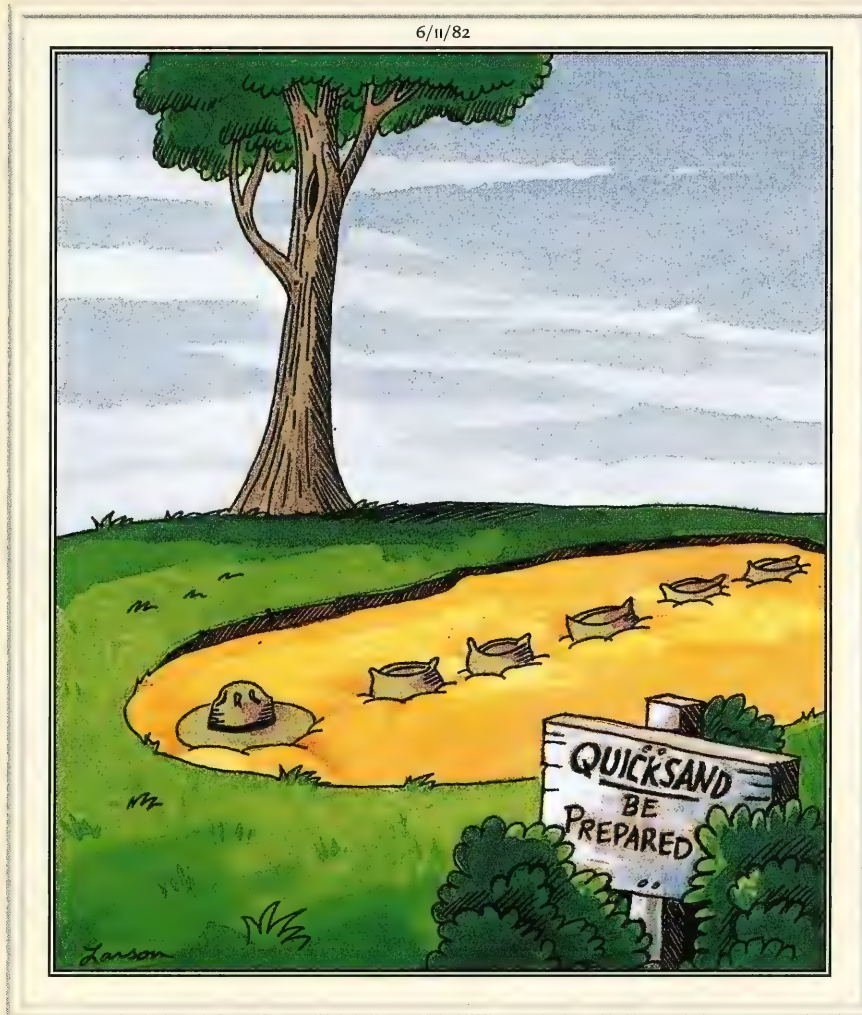
"Hold it right there, stranger. We got us a hat-check law in this town ... so just take it off niiiice and slow."



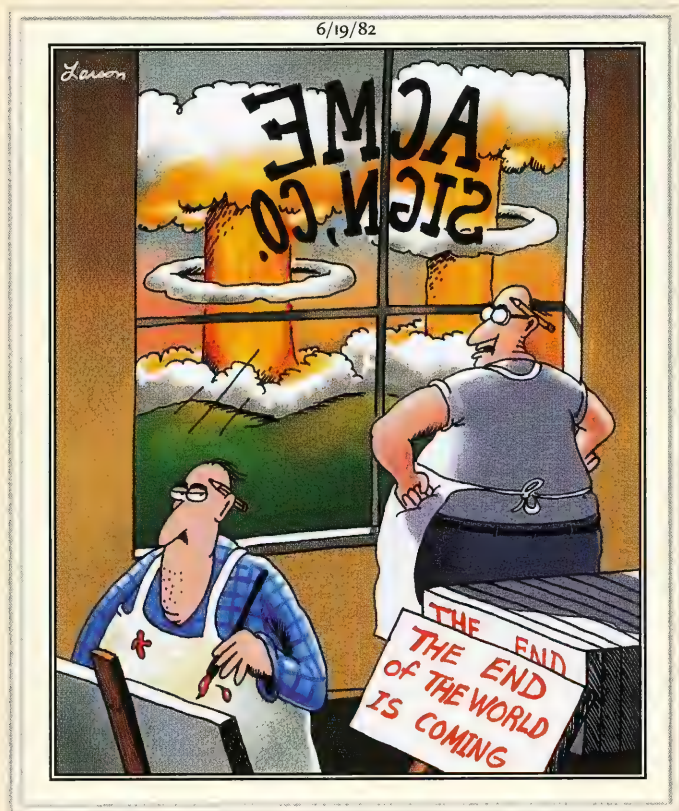
"Ha! Just like every time, you'll get about a hundred yards out, make a big arc, and start heading back."



"Grunt, snort ... grunt grunt, snort ..."



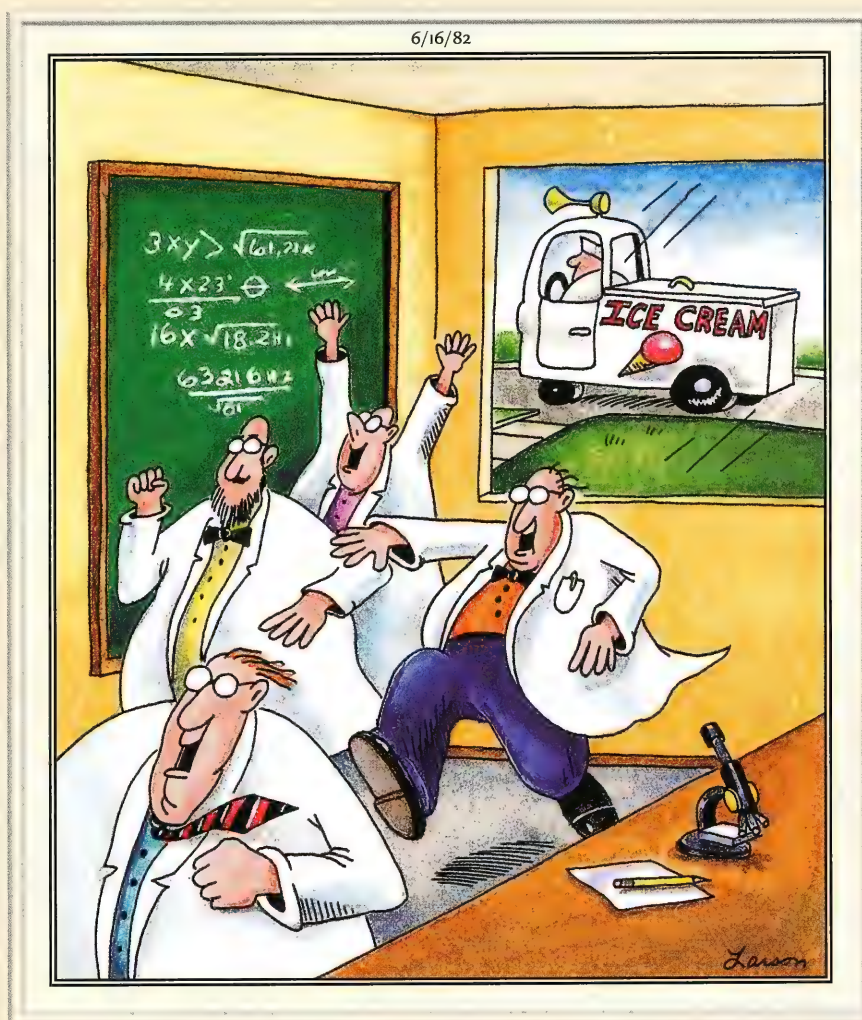
"Oh. Now this is from last summer, when Helen and I went to hell and back."



"Well, wouldn't you know it! ... There goes our market for these things!"



"Well, for crying out loud! ... It's Uncle Irwin from the city sewer!"



6/25/82

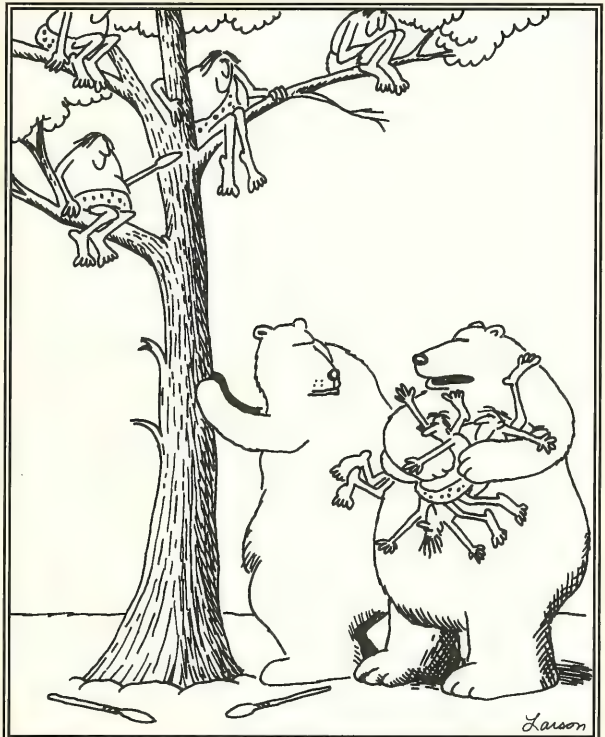


"All right, Billy, you just go right ahead! ...
I've warned you enough times about
playing under the anvil tree!"

6/26/82



6/22/82



"Let's see ... I guess your brother's coming
over, too—better give it one more shake."

6/21/82



"For heaven's sake, Murray! ... We're
supposed to leave in five minutes
and you're not even drawn yet!"

6/28/82



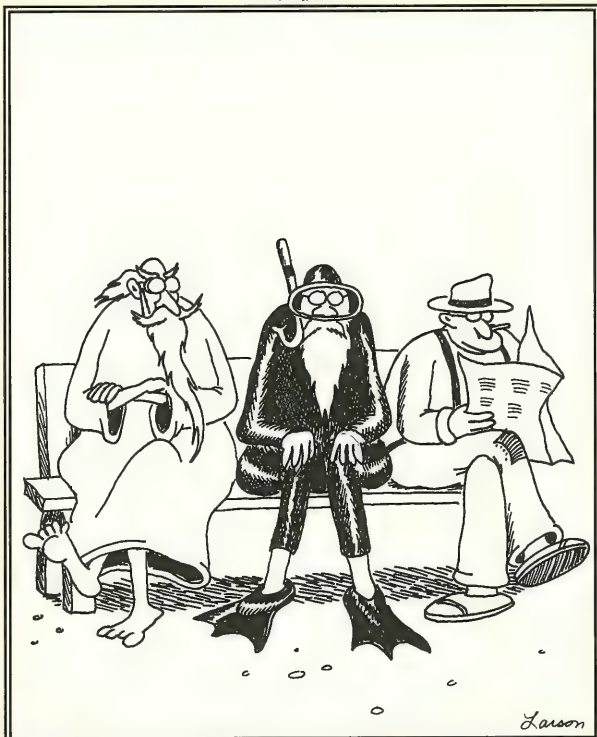
"Well, well, King ... looks like the new neighbors have brought a friend for you, too."

6/29/82



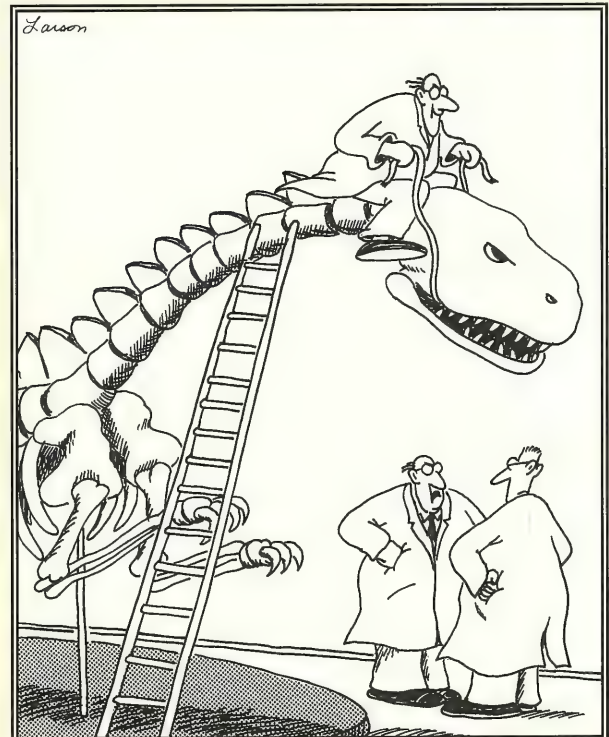
"I'm sorry, Irwin. ... It's your breath. It's ... it's fresh and minty."

6/24/82

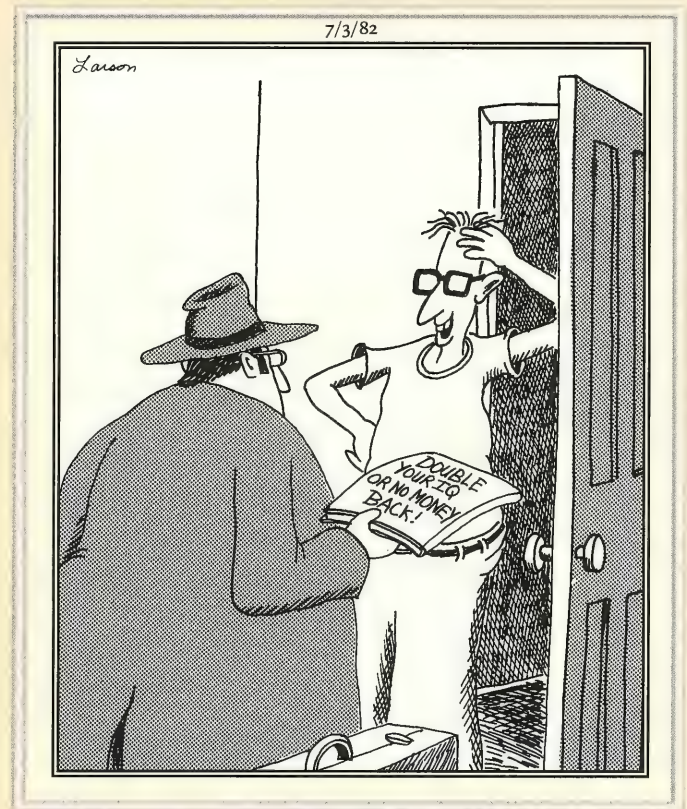
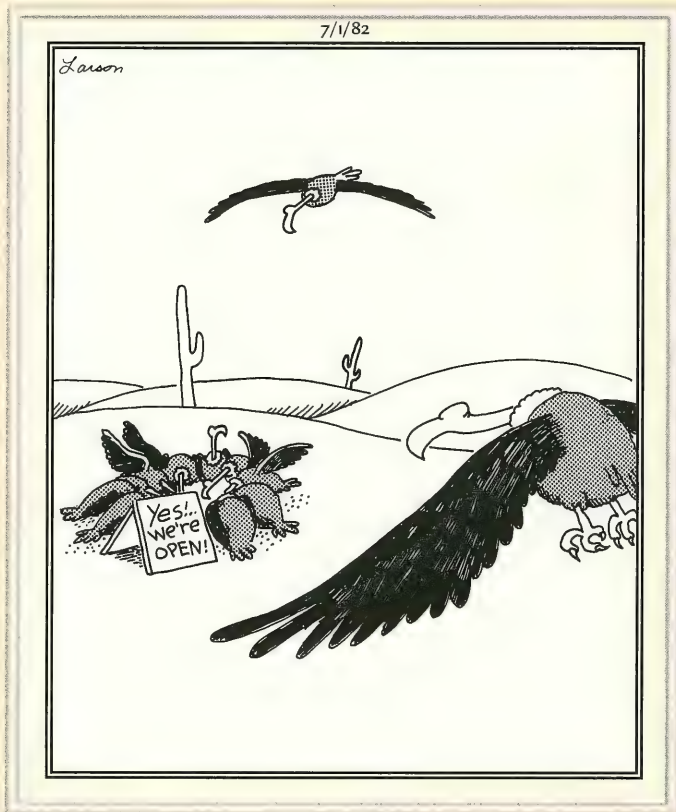


Left to right: Old Man Winter, River, and Higgins

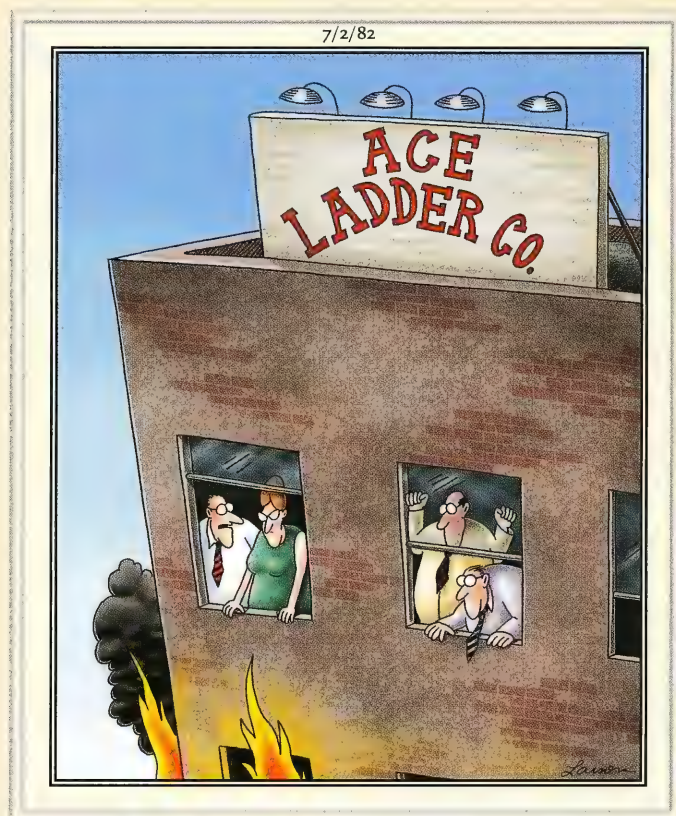
6/30/82



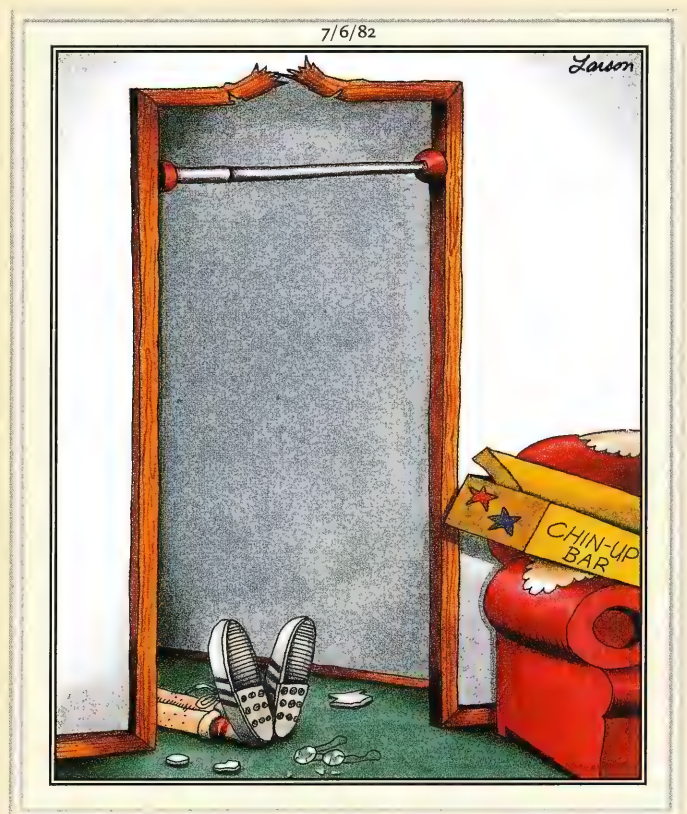
"I assume you're being facetious, Andrews. ... I distinctly yelled 'second!' before you did."



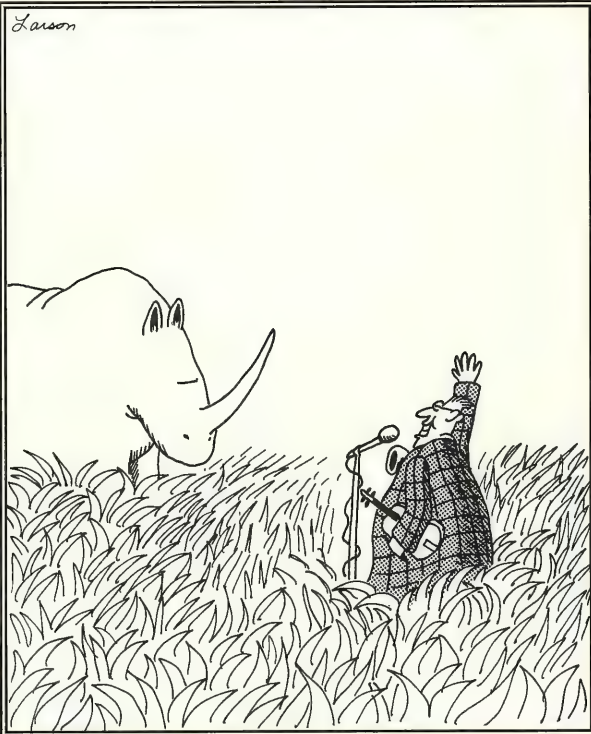
"Well, I dunno. ... Okay, sounds good to me."



"Wait a minute! Say that again, Doris! ... You know, the part about 'If only we had some means of climbing down.'"

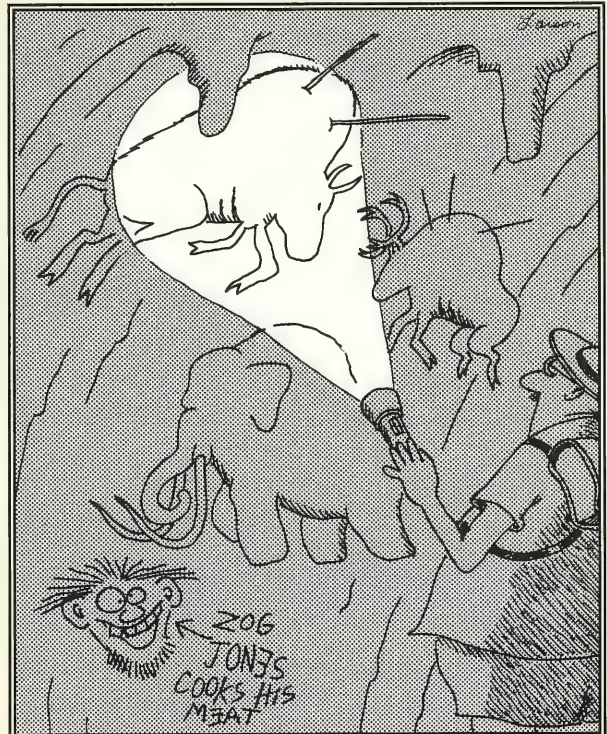


7/7/82

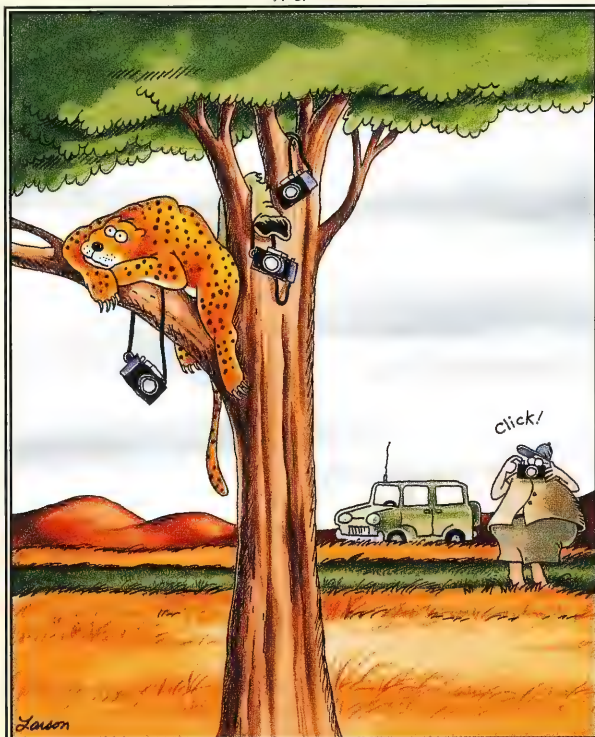


The African rhino: an animal with little or no sense of humor.

7/9/82



7/13/82

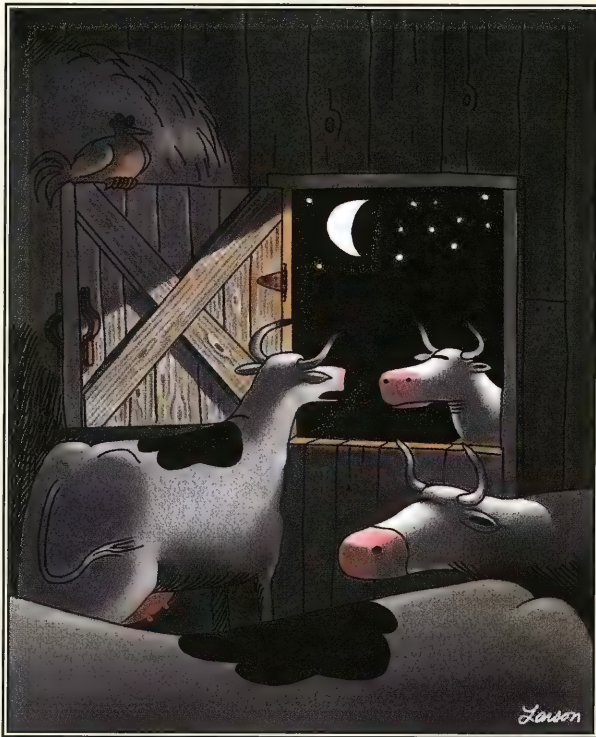


7/5/82



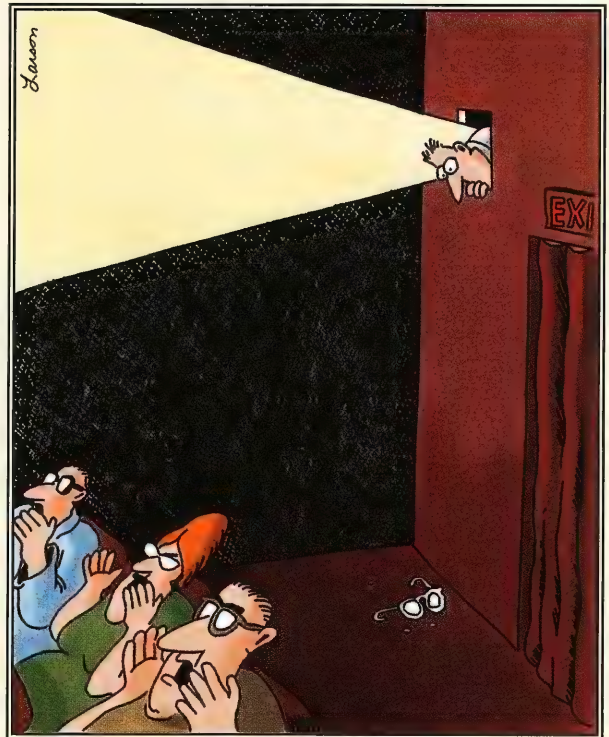
"Hello, Emily. This is Gladys Murphy up the street. Fine, thanks. ... Say, Emily, could you go to your window and describe what's in my front yard?"

7/8/82



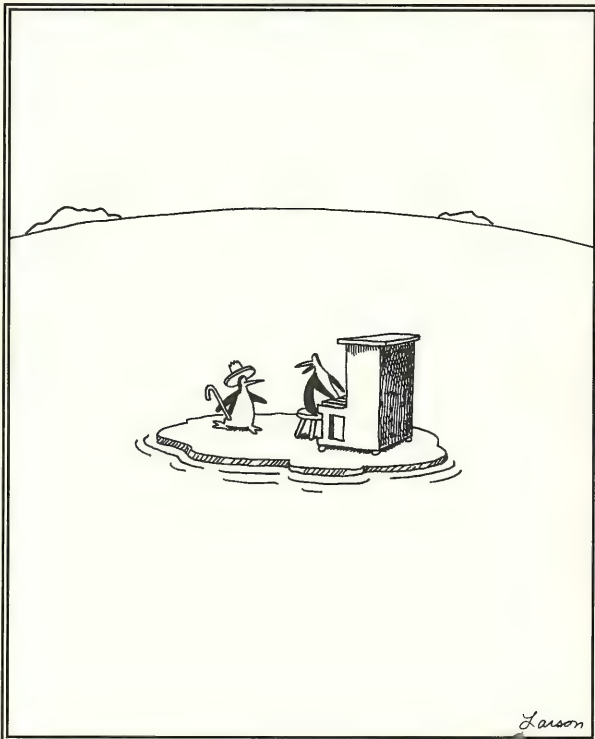
"I'm sorry, but we haven't any room. ...
You'll have to sleep in the house."

7/15/82



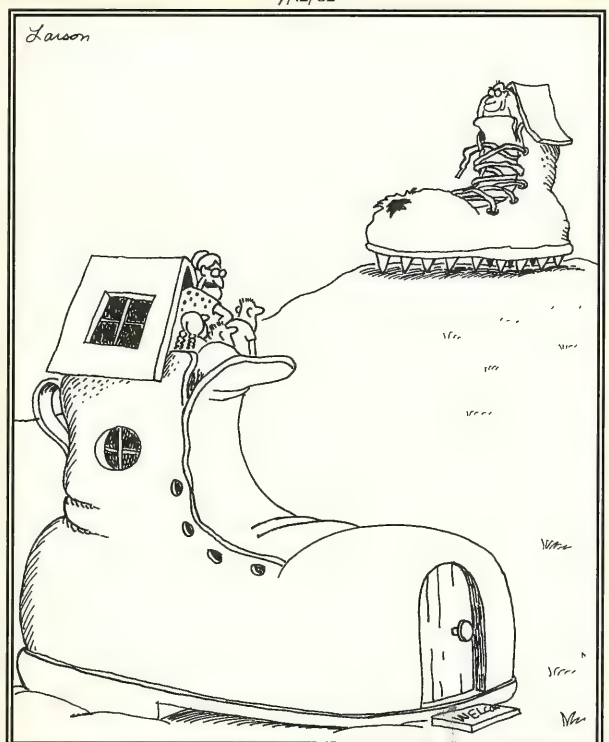
"FOCUS! ... FOCUS!"

7/10/82

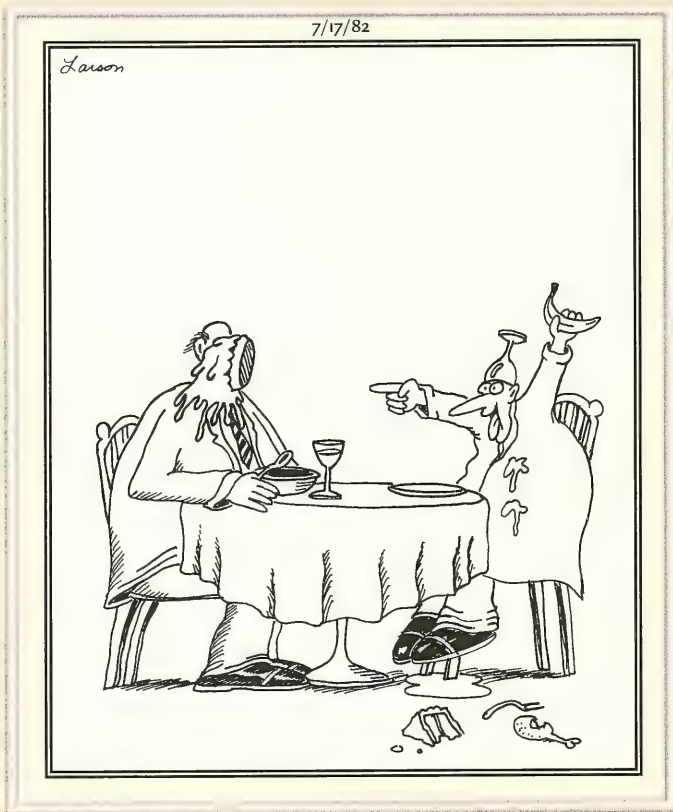


"No, no, no! Now, try it again! ... Remember,
this is our one and only ticket out of here!"

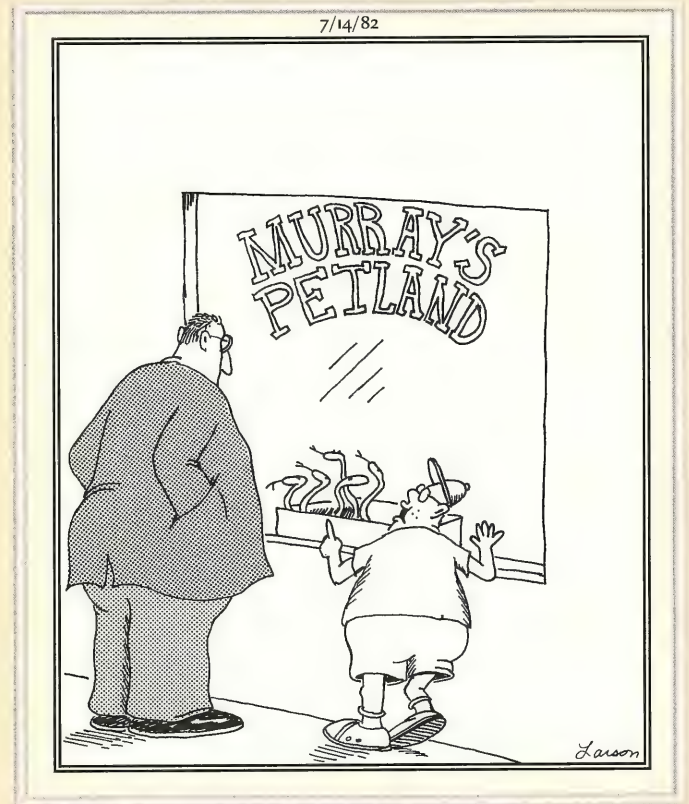
7/12/82



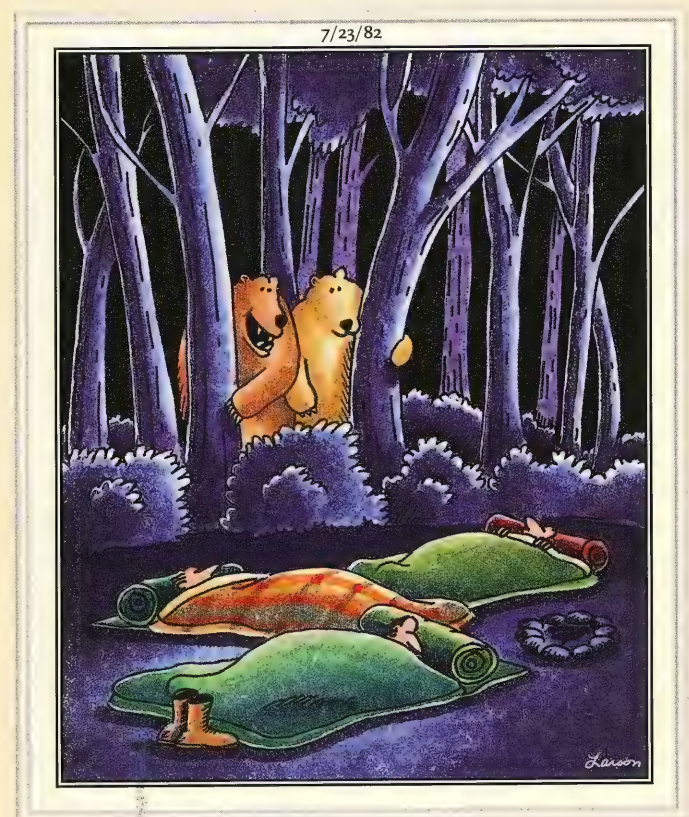
"Now don't you kids forget—stay away from
old Mr. Weatherby's place."



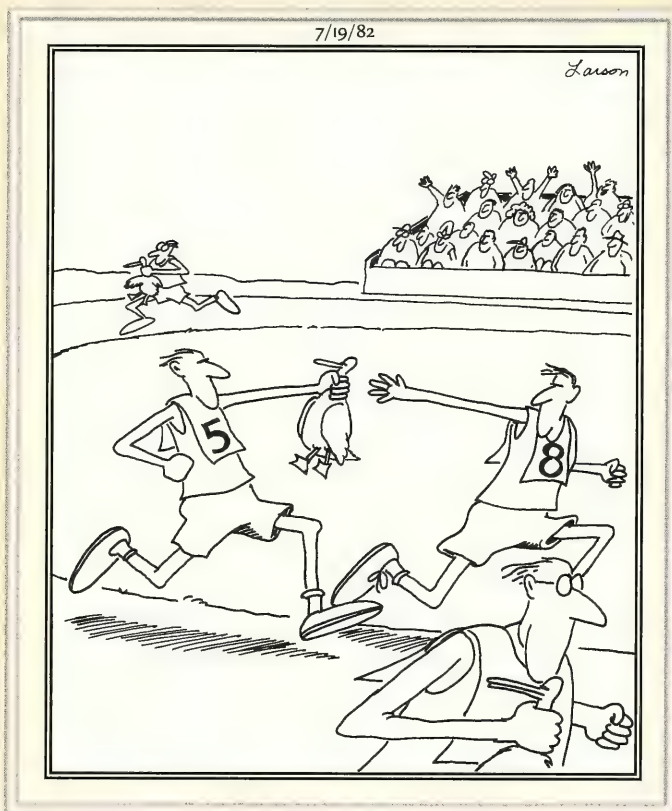
My dinner with Andy



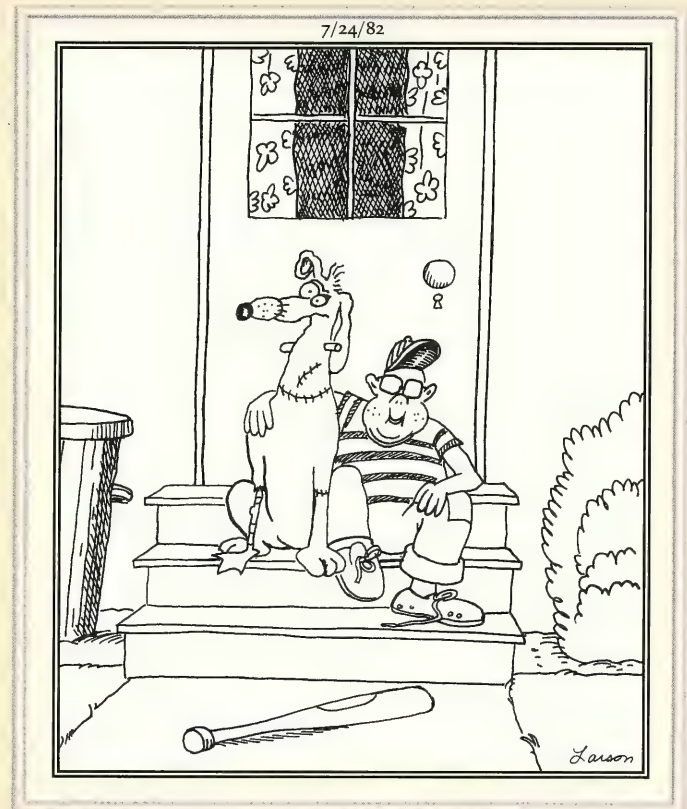
"Oh, please, oh, please, Dad! ...
The little brown one!"



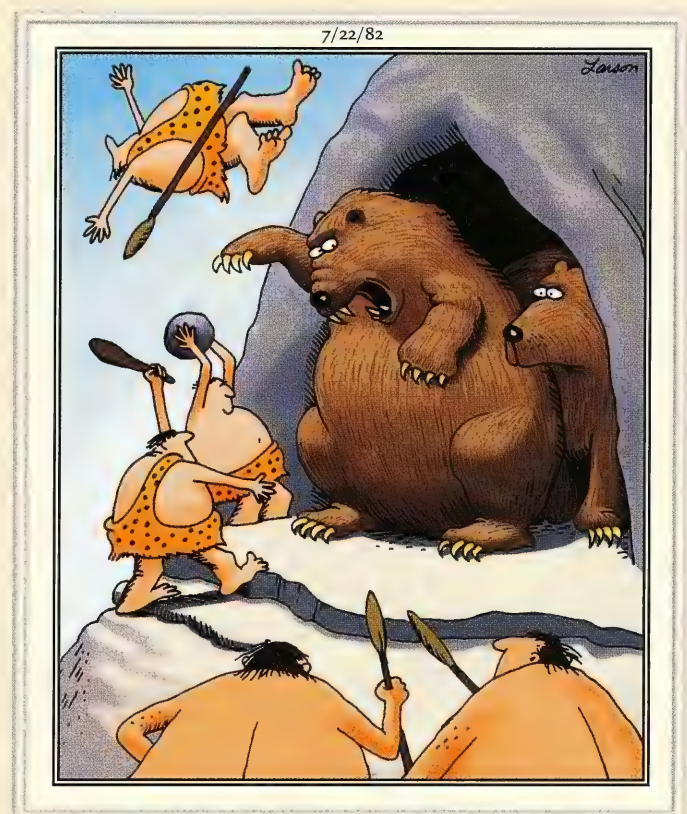
"Sandwiches!"



The duck relays



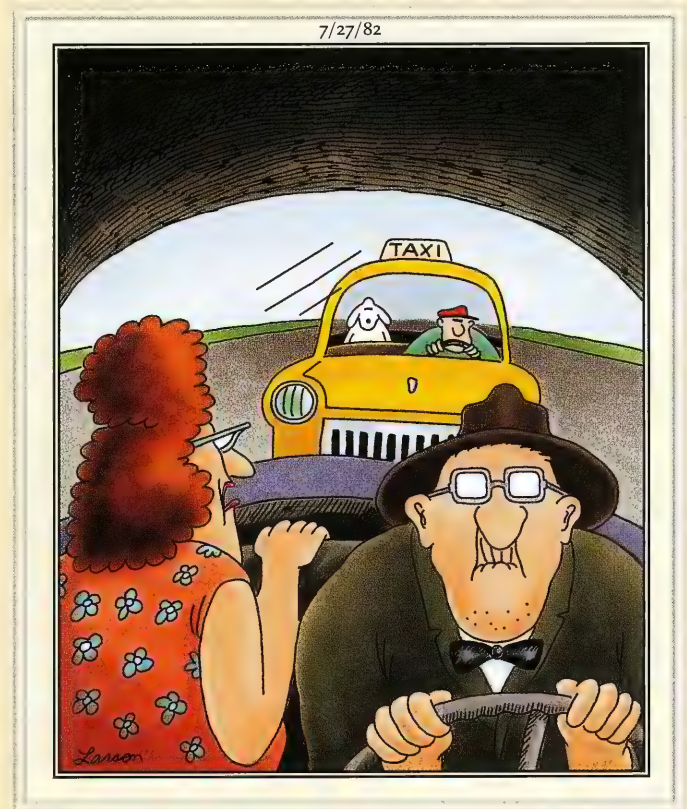
Young Jimmy Frankenstein



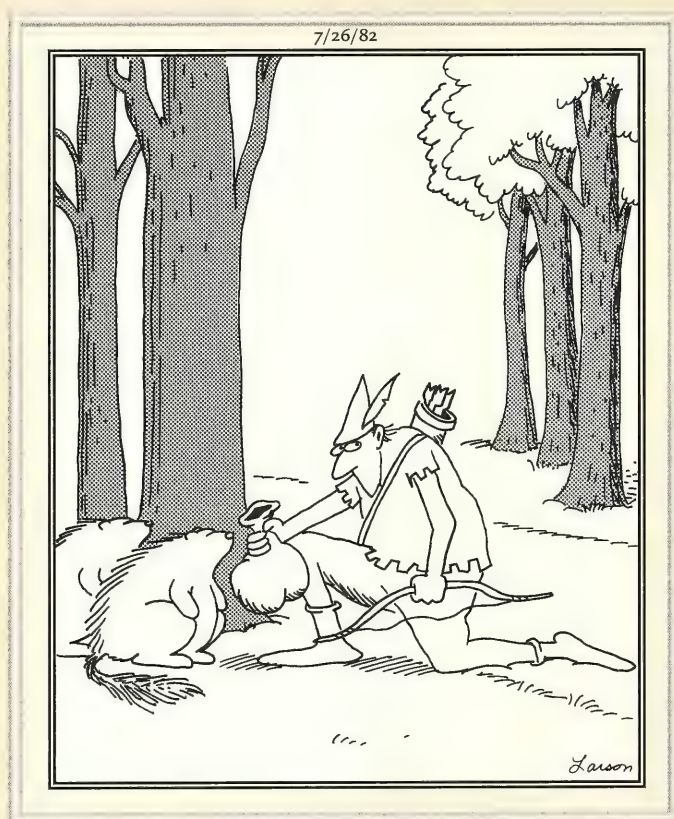
"Crimony! ... It seems like every summer there's more and more of these things around!"



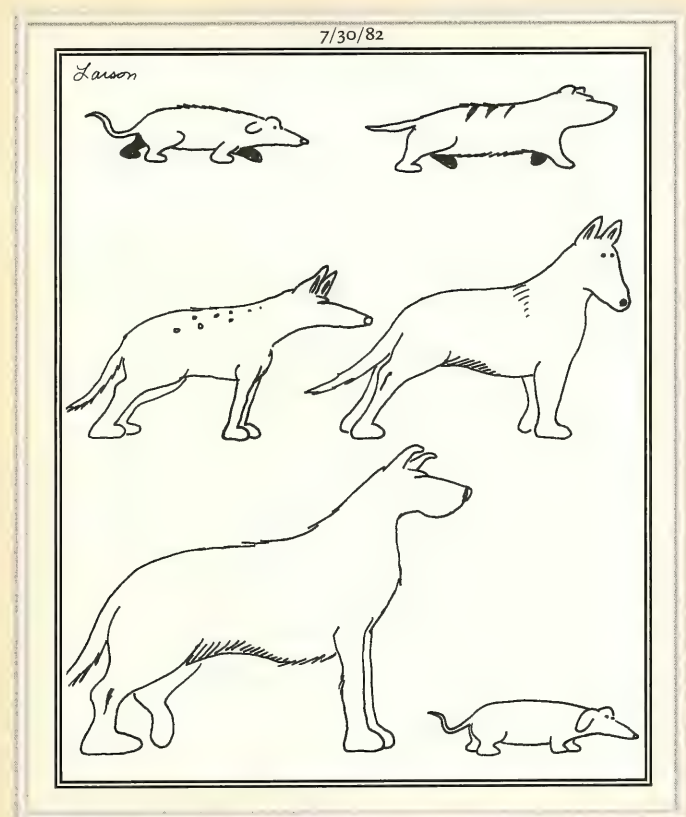
"Well, here they come. ... You locked the keys inside, you do the talkin'."



"Blast it, Henry! ... I think the dog is following us."



Historic note: Until his life's destiny was further clarified, Robin Hood spent several years robbing from the rich and giving to the porcupines.



Evolution of the dog

7/29/82



"DOWN IN FRONT! ... SIT DOWN! ...
SIT DOWN!"

7/28/82

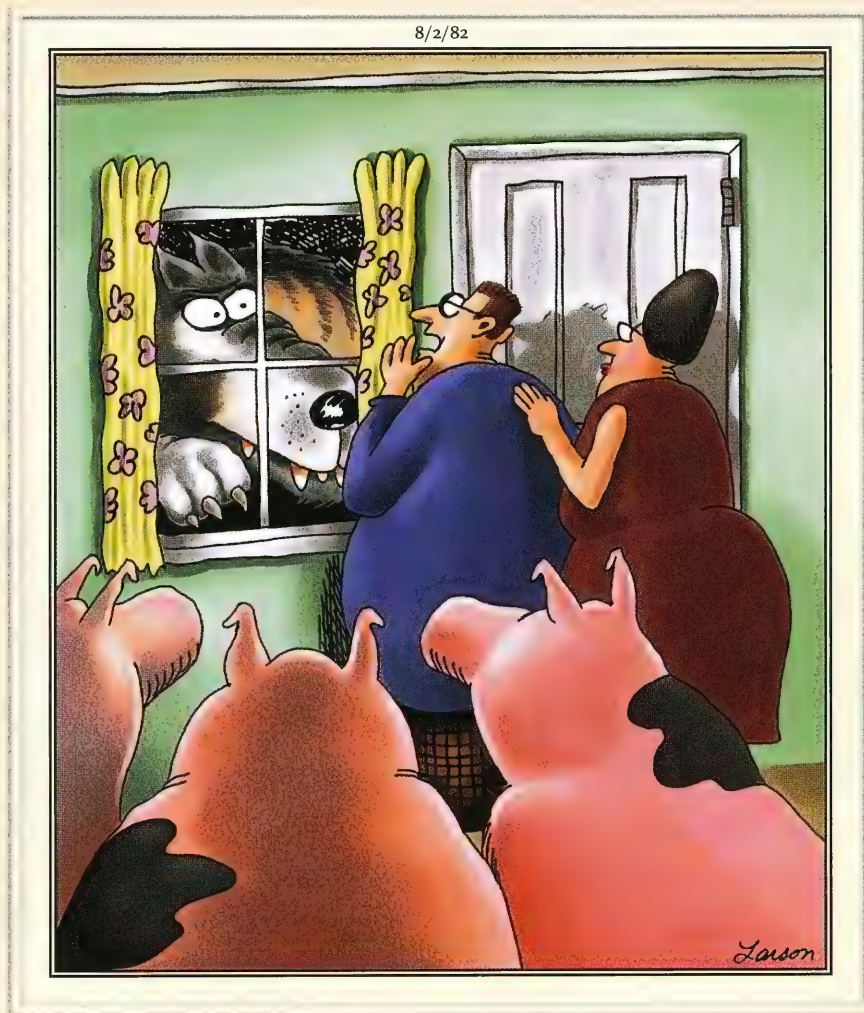


In the days before television

7/31/82



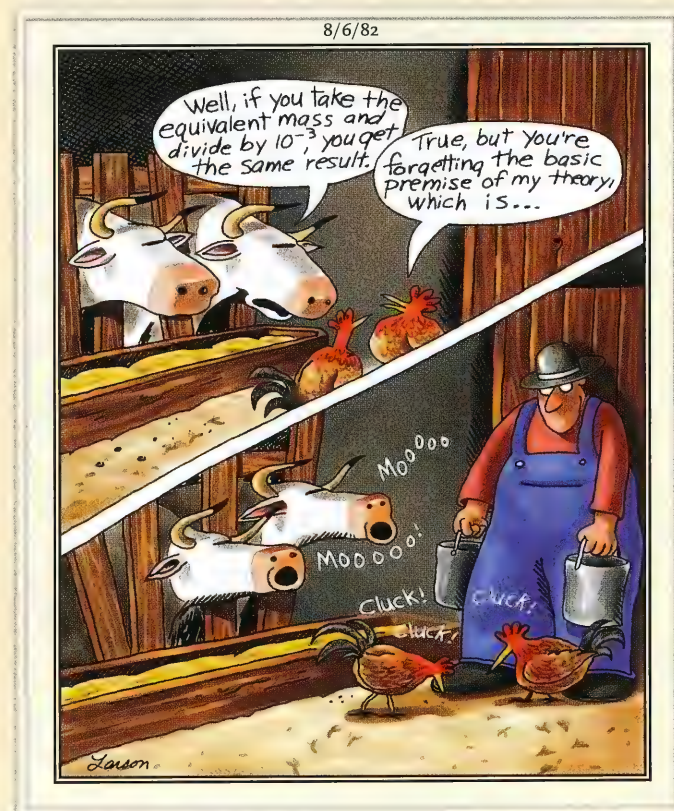
Late at night, and without permission, Reuben
would often enter the nursery and conduct
experiments in static electricity.



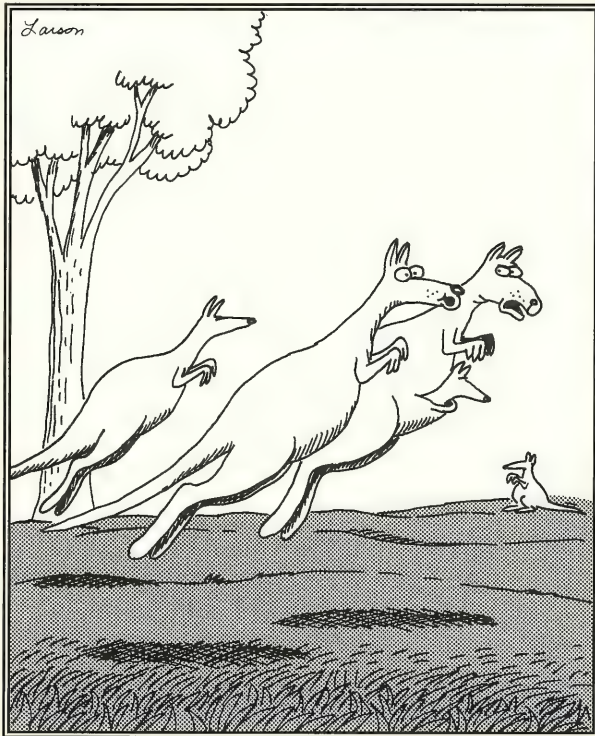
"Listen out there! We're George and Harriet Miller!
We just dropped in on the pigs for coffee! We're
coming out! ... We don't want trouble!"



"So, then ... would that be 'us the people'
or 'we the people'?"

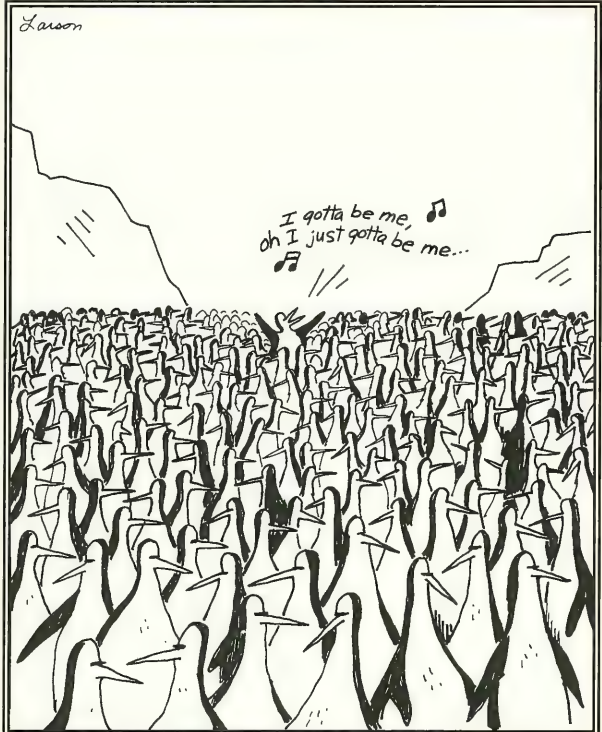


8/3/82



"Just jump, fool! ... You don't have to go, 'Boing, boing, boing!'"

8/9/82



8/11/82



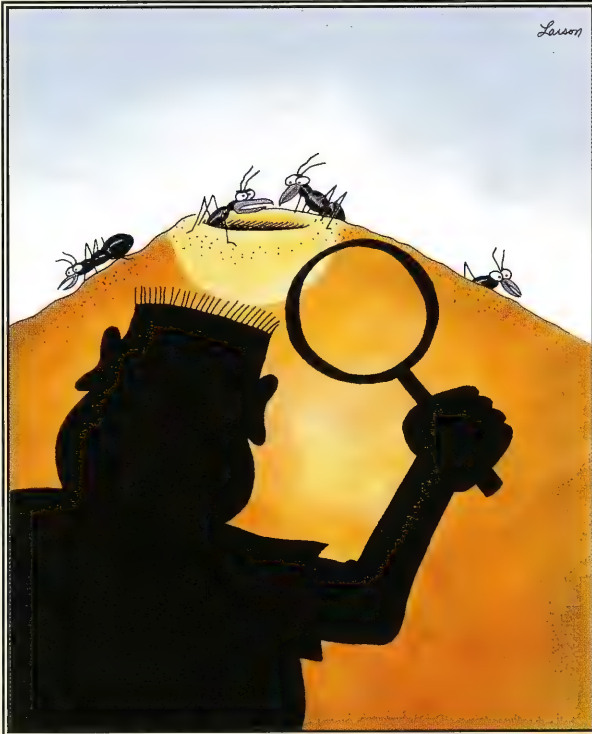
"Excuse me, but the others sent me up here to ask you to please not roll around so much."

8/7/82



"General! Quick! Look! ... Henderson is doing it again!"

8/18/82



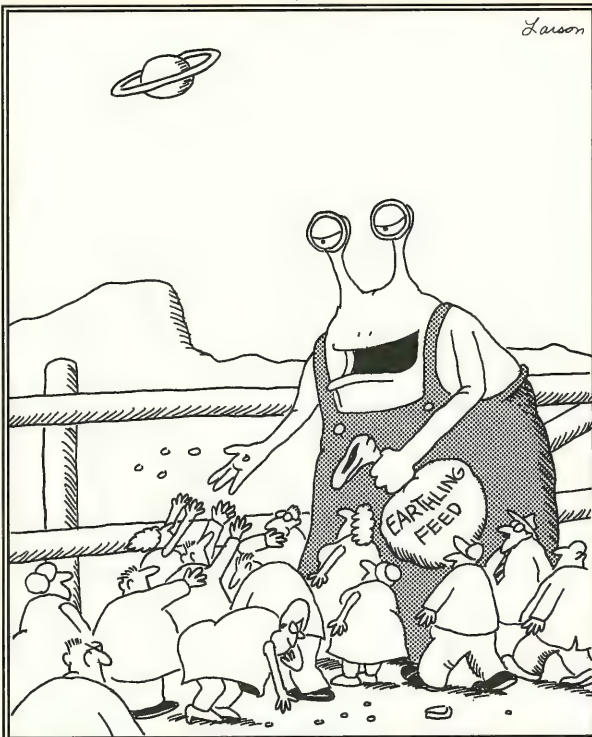
"Say ... now I'm starting to feel kinda warm!"

8/16/82



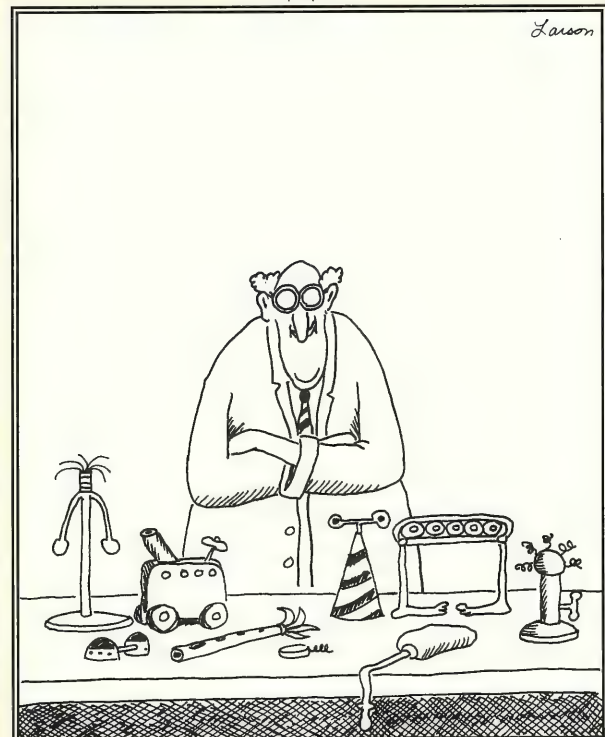
"Step on it, Arnold! STEP ON IT!"

8/4/82

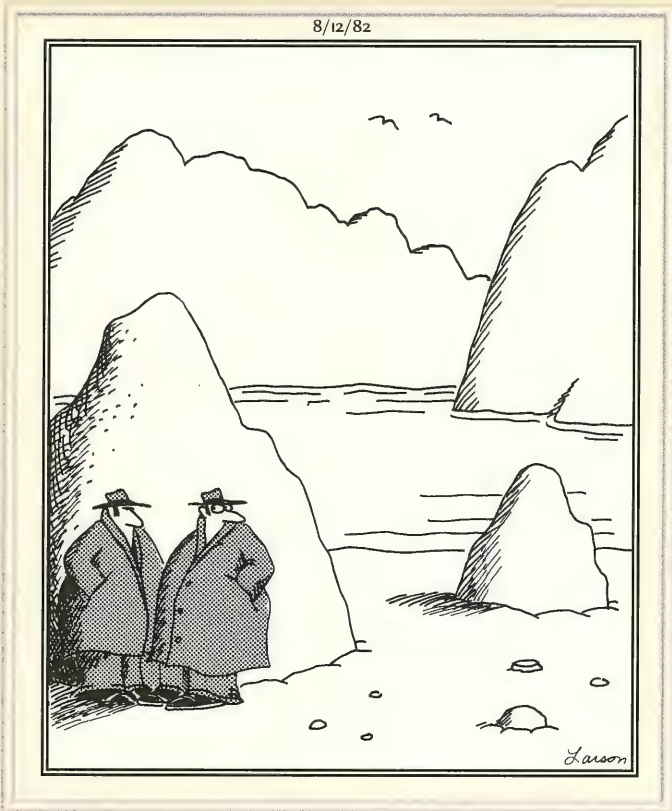


"Heeeeeere, yakity yak yak yak! ...
Come, come, yakity yak yak yak!"

8/10/82



Professor E. F. Gizmo and some of
his many inventions



Loch Ness mobsters

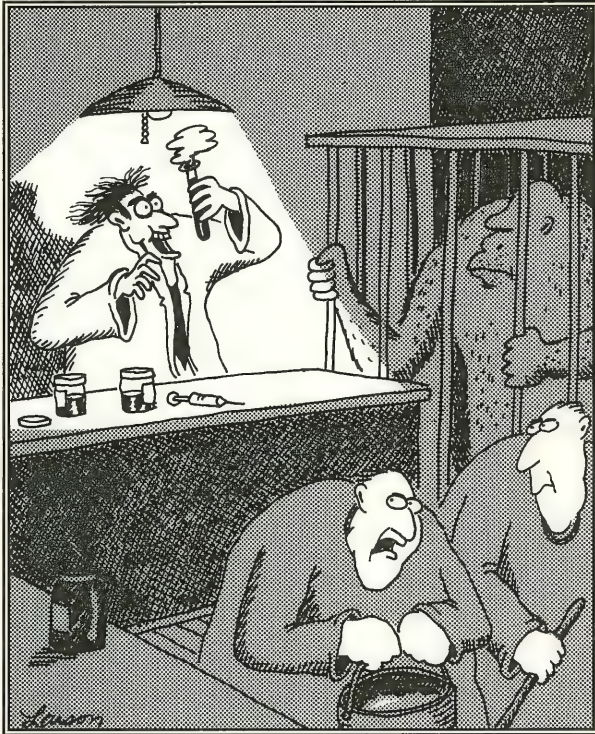


"I say fifty, maybe a hundred horses. ...
What you say, Red Eagle?"



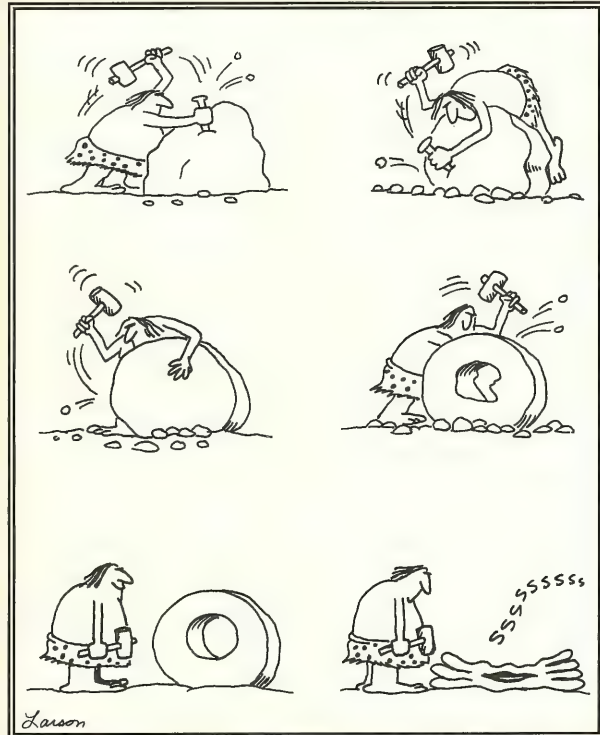
"You know, we're just not reaching that guy."

8/14/82



"Somethin's in the air, Carl. ... The doc's gettin' that old twinkle in his eye again."

8/17/82

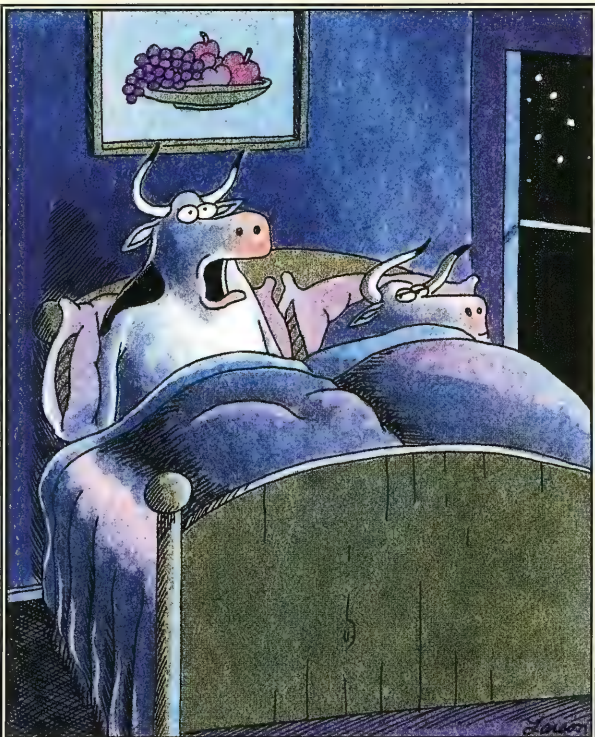


8/24/82



Inevitably, their affair ended: Howard worried excessively about what the pack would think, and Agnes simply ate the flowers.

8/21/82



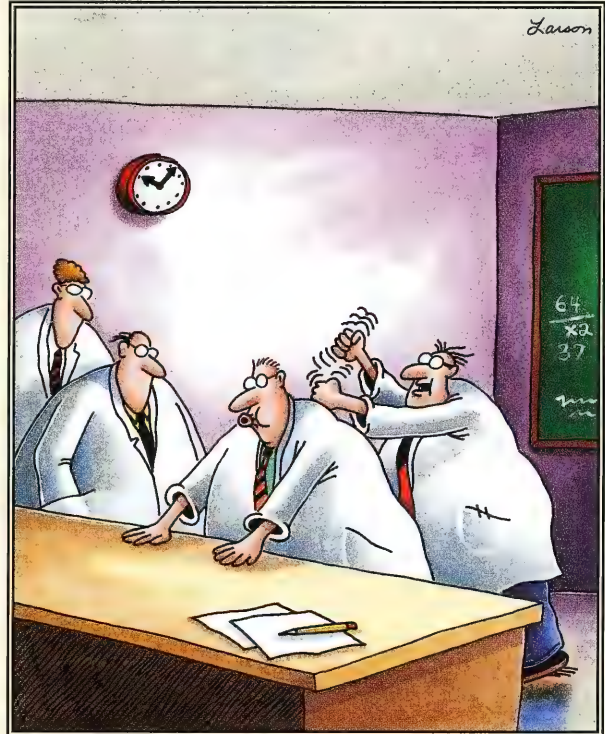
"THE GOLDEN ARCHES! ... THE GOLDEN ARCHES GOT ME!"

8/23/82



"Look! Look, gentlemen! Purple mountains!
Spacious skies! Fruited plains! ...
Is someone writing this down?"

8/28/82



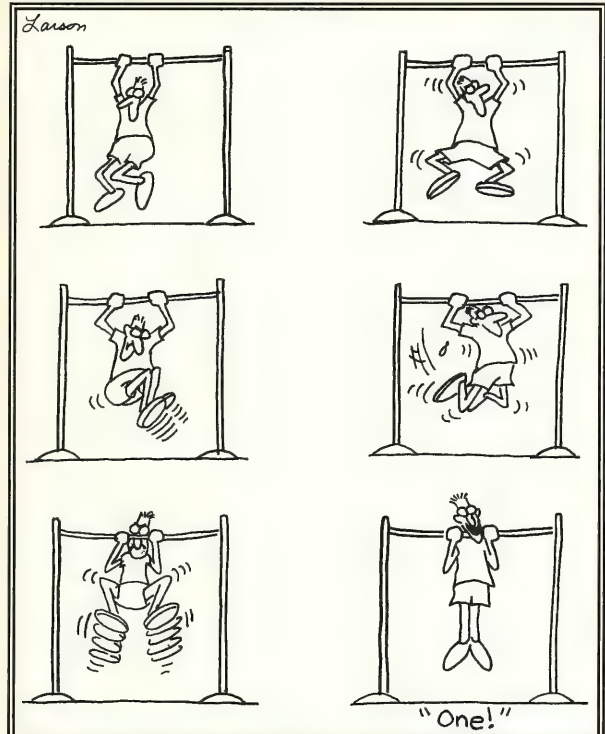
"And notice, gentlemen, the faster I go, the
more Simmons sounds like a motorboat."

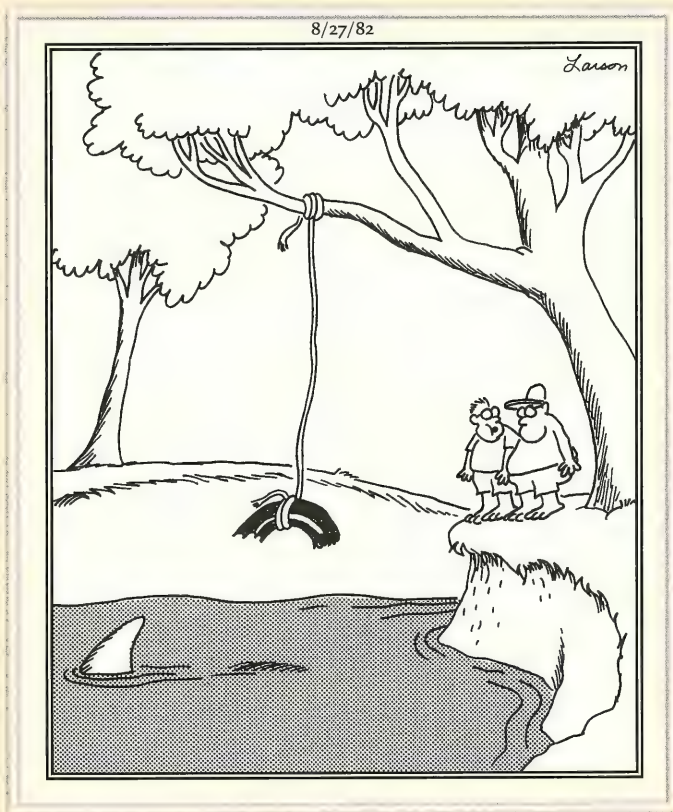
8/25/82



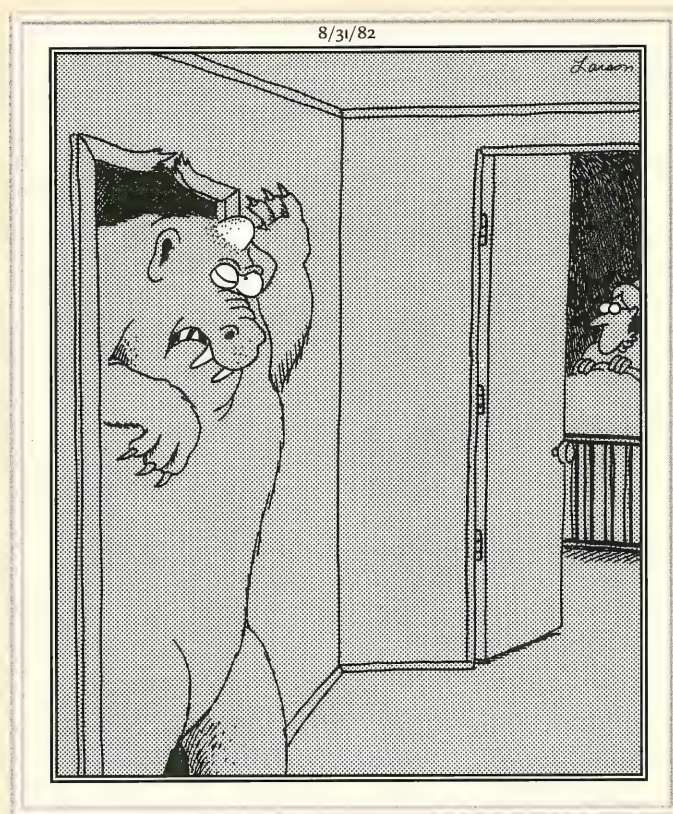
"And now there go the Wilsons! ... Seems
like everyone's evolving except us!"

8/26/82





"Listen ... you go tell Billy's mother, and I'll start looking for another old tire."



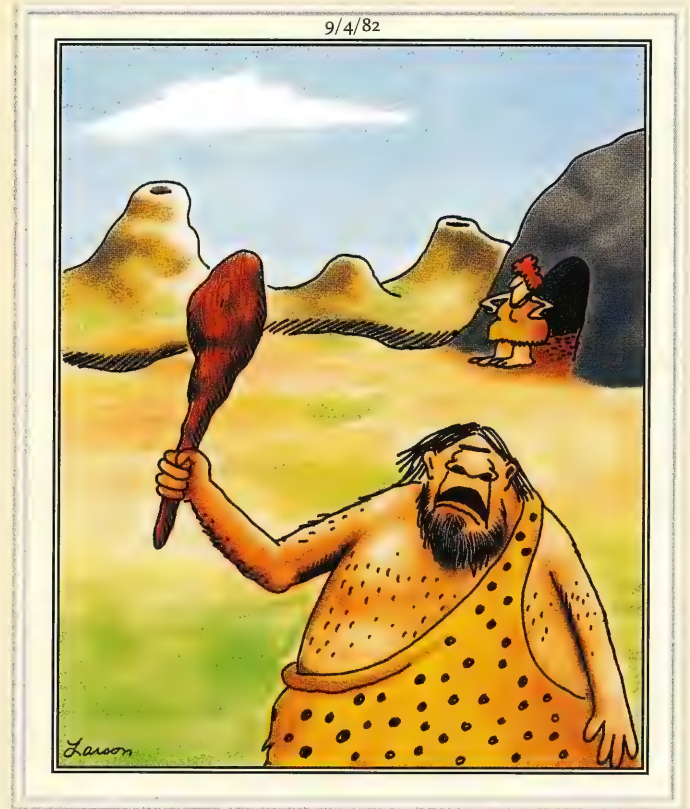
Things that go bump in the night



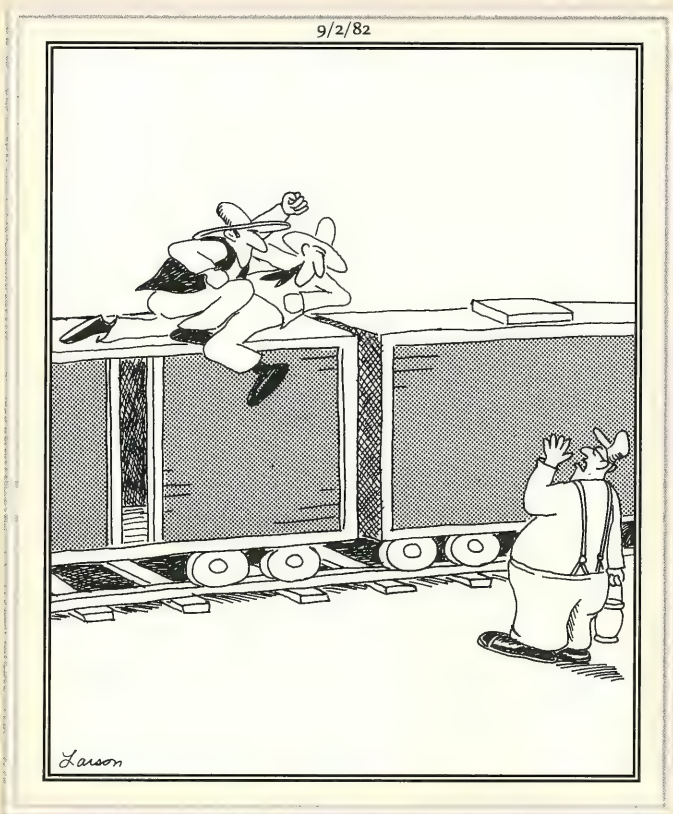
"Mom! Dad! ... The nose fairy left me a whole quarter!"



“Uh-oh, Lorraine ... someone seems to be checking you out.”



“Do you know me? I have to deal with lions, wolves, and saber-toothed tigers. ... That’s why I carry one of *these*.”



“Hey! Hey, you idiots! The train has stopped! ... Come on down from there!”



9/6/82



The embarrassment of "morning face"

9/8/82



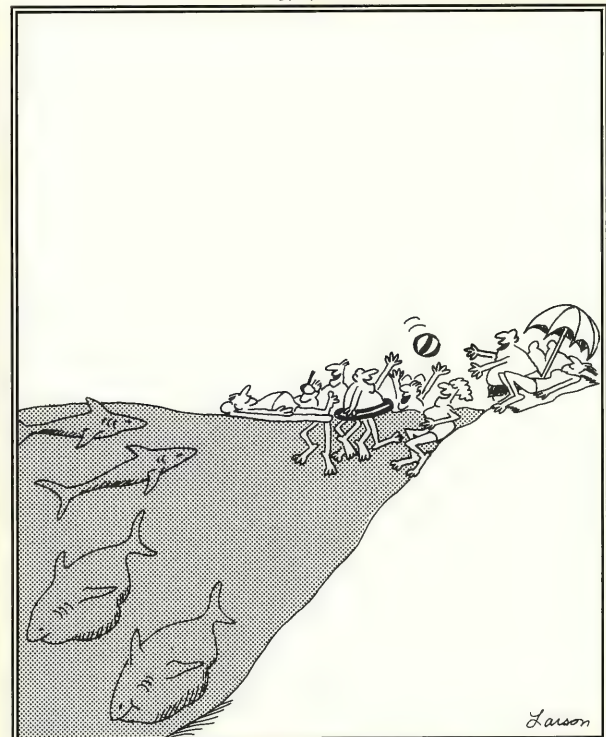
"Good heavens, Stuart! ... We're definitely going to need the net!"

9/10/82



Nature's subtle signs of danger

9/21/82

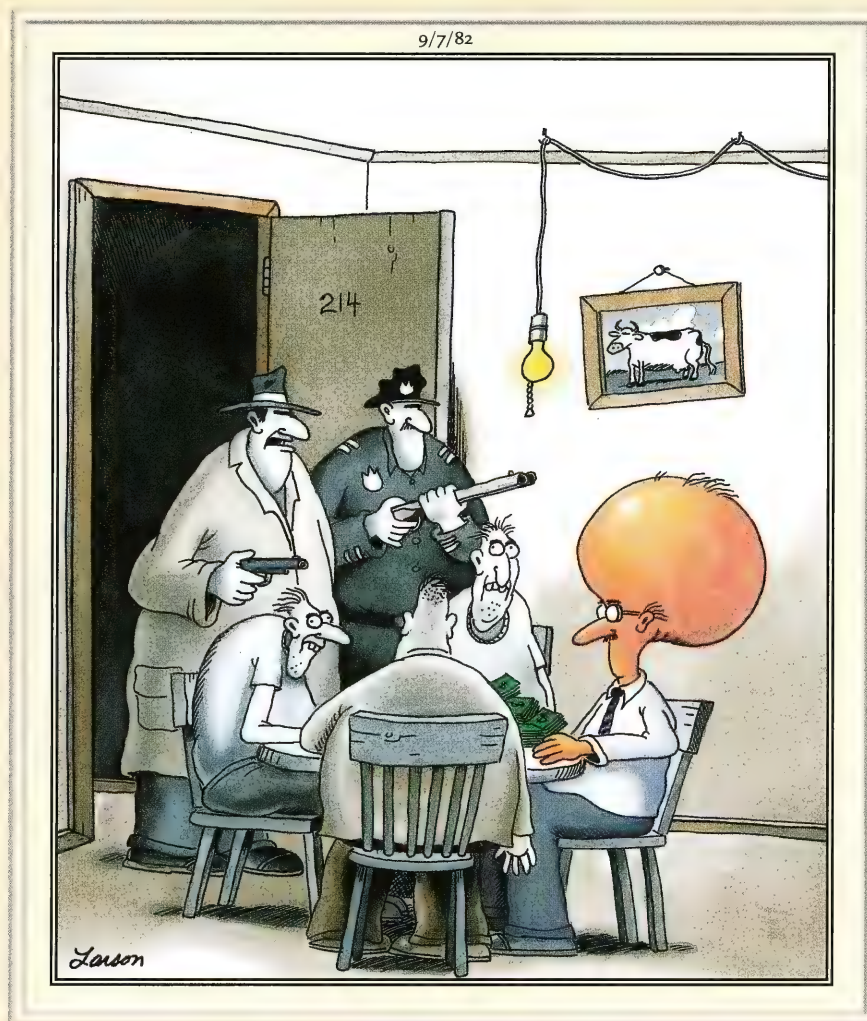




"Now here comes the barbaric finale."



"Now you've got him, Vinnie!"



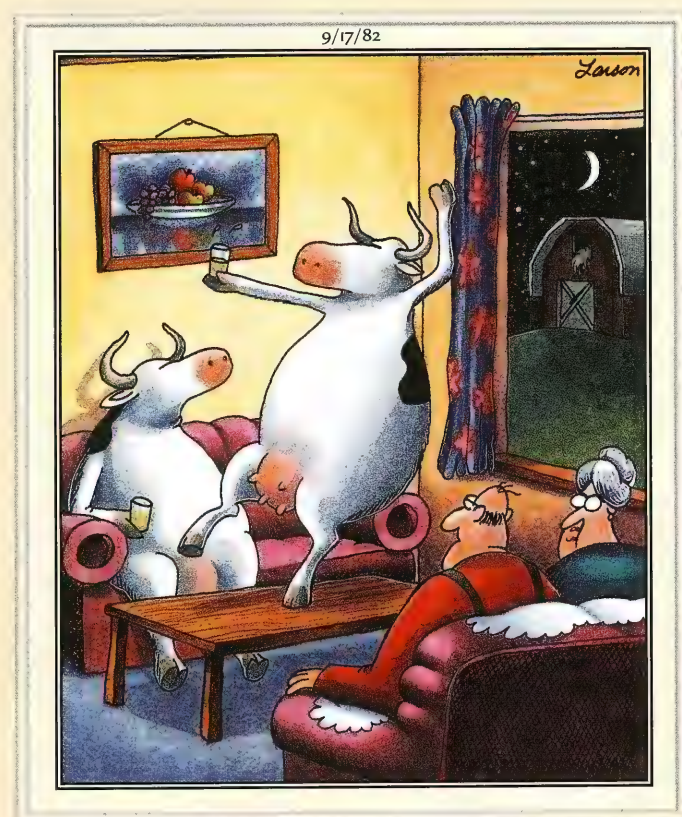
"FREEZE! ... Okay, now ... who's the brains of this outfit?"



“YEEEEHAAAAAAAAA!”



“The fool! ... He’s on the keyboard!”



“Satisfied? ... I warned you not to invite the cows in for a few drinks.”



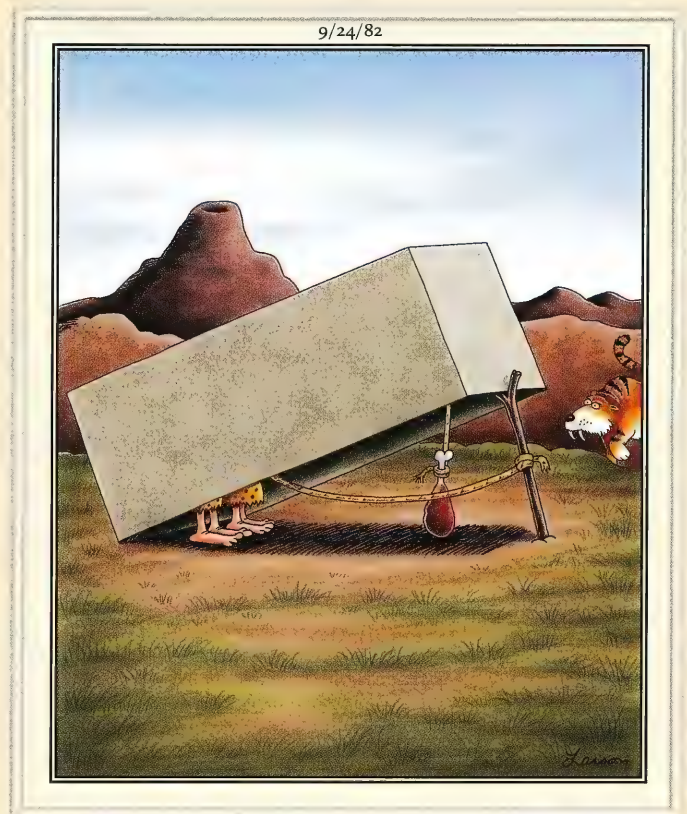
“So, Mr. Fenton ... let’s begin with your mother.”



“Well, Emily is out like a light. ... Just can’t resist pulling that little stunt of yours, can you, Earl?”



And then, from across the room,
their eyes met.



“Shhhh, Zog! ... Here come one now!”

9/18/82

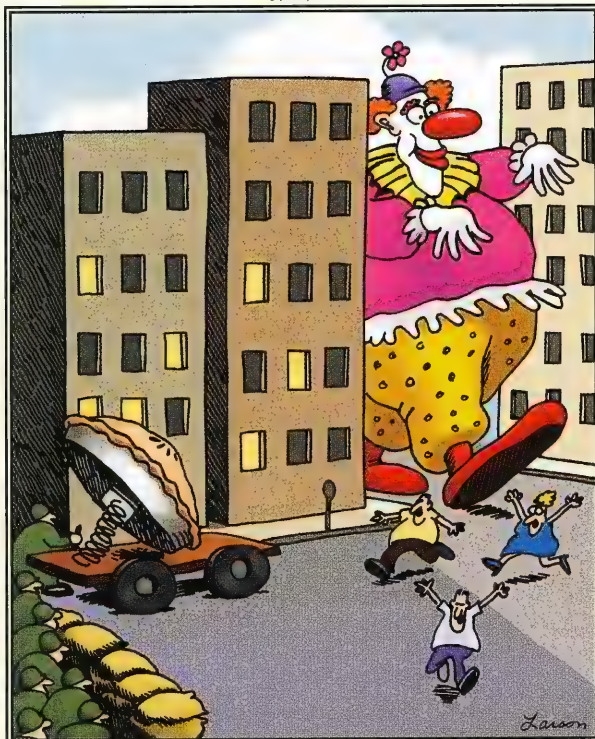


9/23/82



"Late again! ... This better be good!"

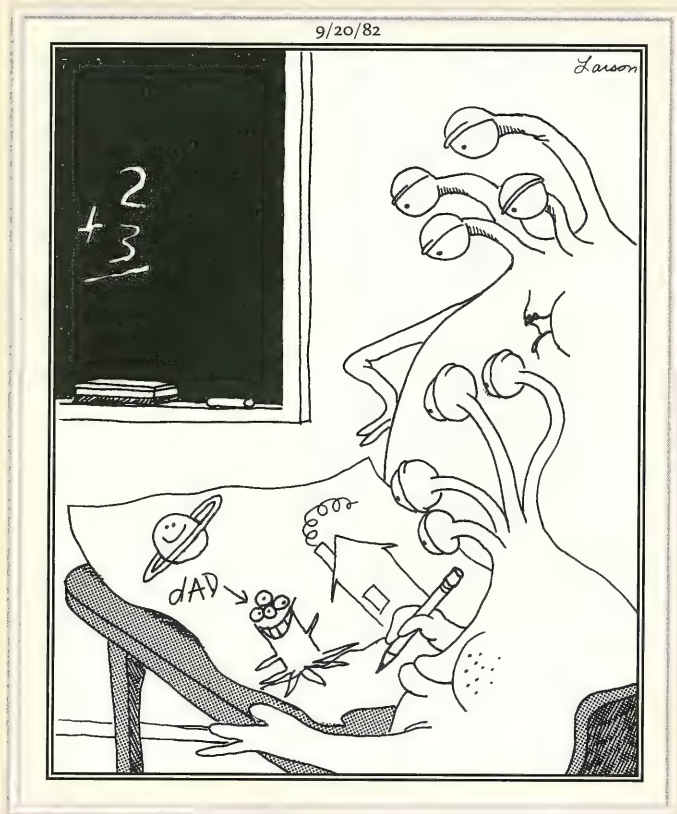
9/28/82



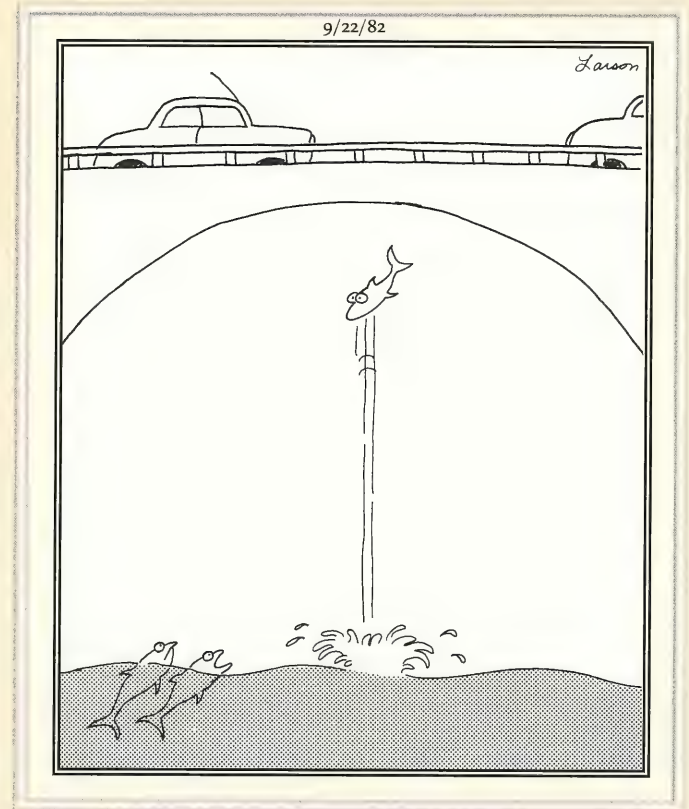
9/29/82



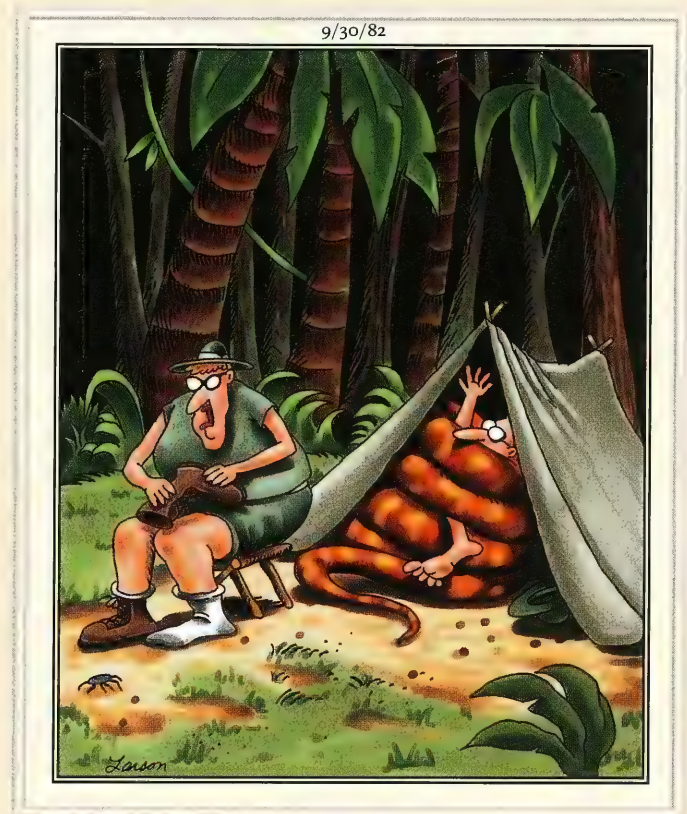
"Now take them big birds, Barnaby. ...
Never eat a thing ... just sit and stare."



"Verrrrrry good, Ernie!"

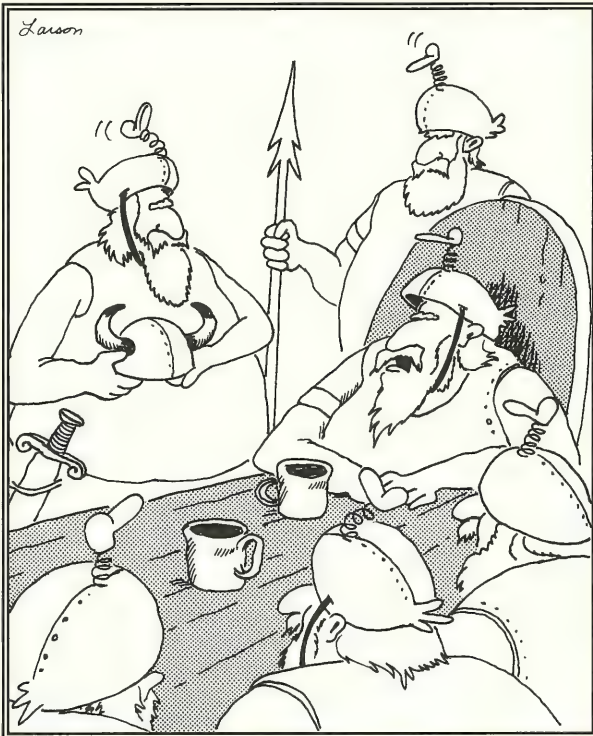


"We're too late! ... He jumped!"



"AAAAAaaaa! MURRAY! ... A spider was in my shoe!"

10/2/82



"Now, on to other business ...
Bjorn Jorgensen here has a new
helmet design to show us!"

10/1/82



"Knock it off, I said! ... This is a still life!"

10/5/82



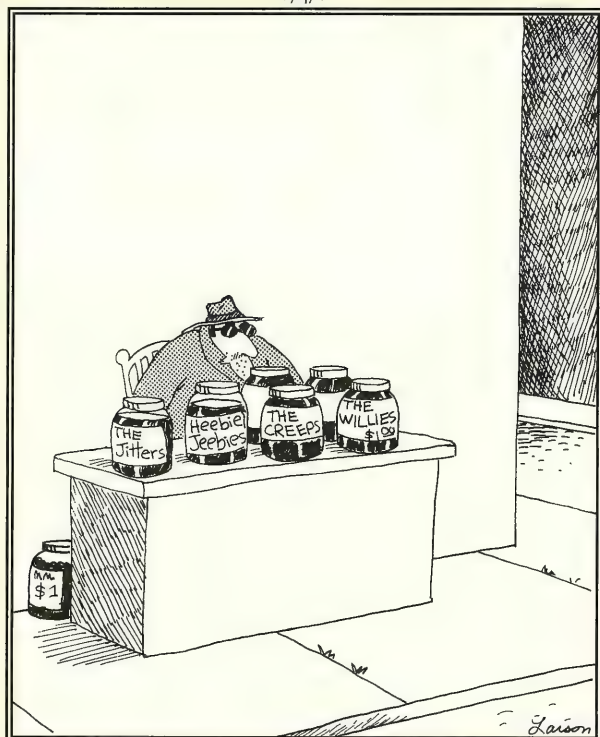
"Ooooooooooooooooooooo!"

10/7/82

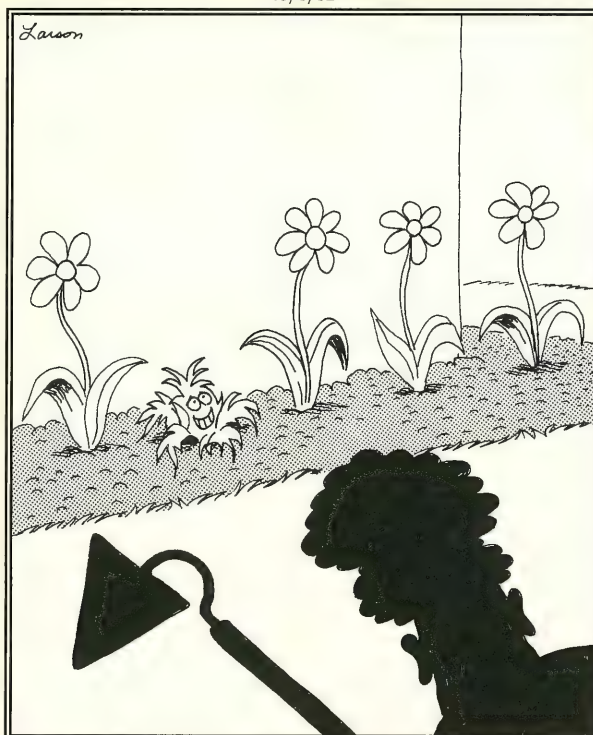


"Ha! The idiots spelled 'surrender'
with only one 'r'!"

10/4/82



10/6/82

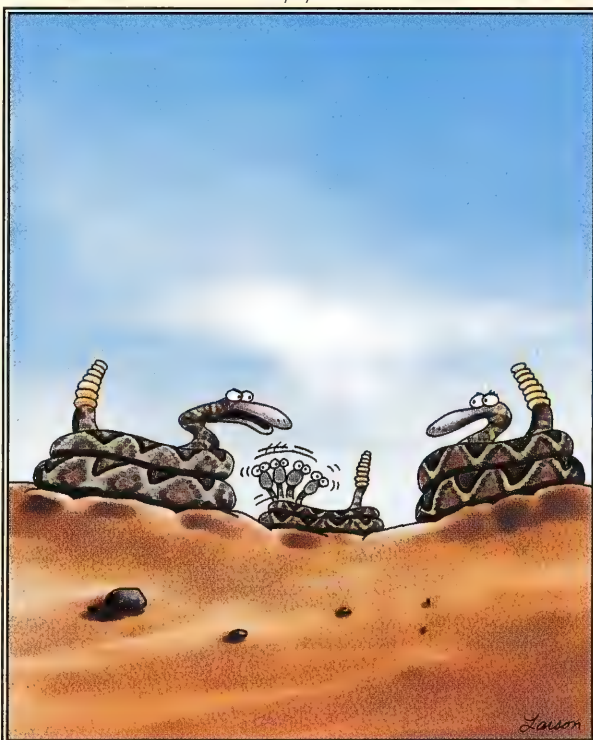


10/11/82



"Hey! They're lighting their arrows! ...
Can they *do* that?"

10/12/82



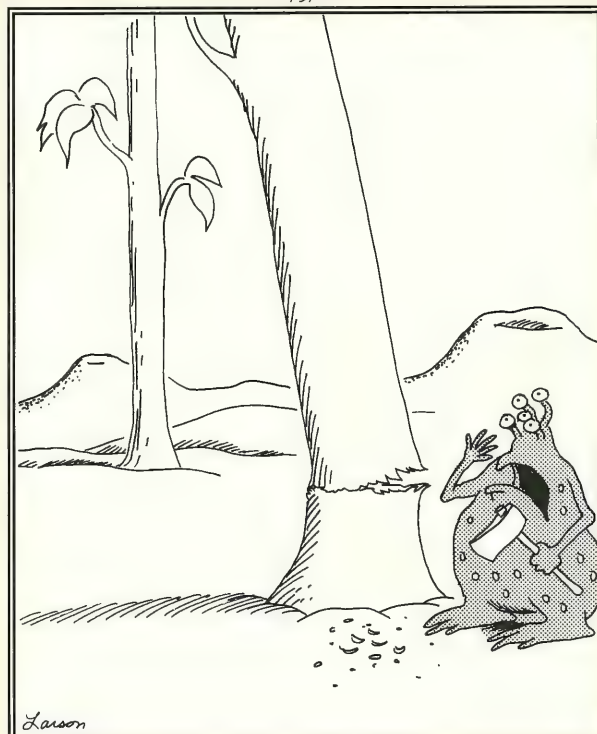
"This is your side of the family, you realize."

10/8/82



"For heaven's sake, Andrew! ... You're not going to plug that horrible thing in, are you?"

10/9/82



"Raaaaaaaaxphooooooooorg!"

10/13/82



"Hang on, Betty. ... Someone's bound to see us eventually."

10/14/82



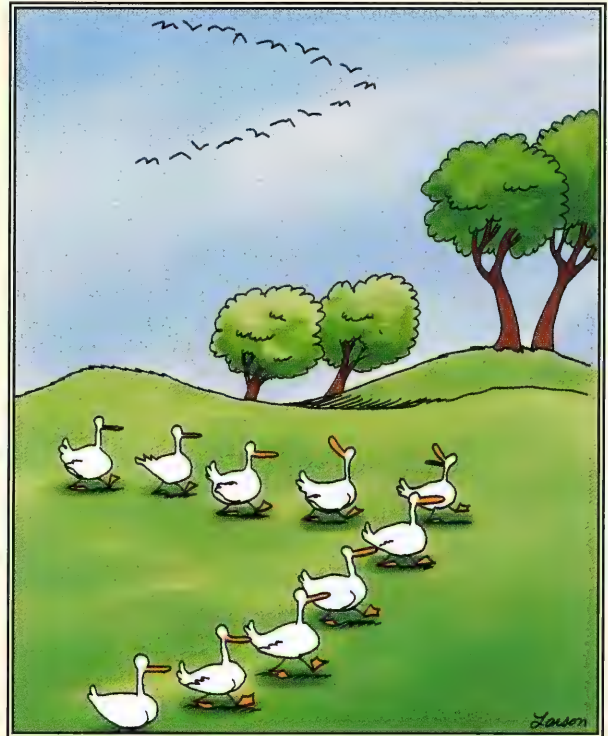
"Blasted recoil unit!"

10/15/82



Where parakeets come from

10/16/82

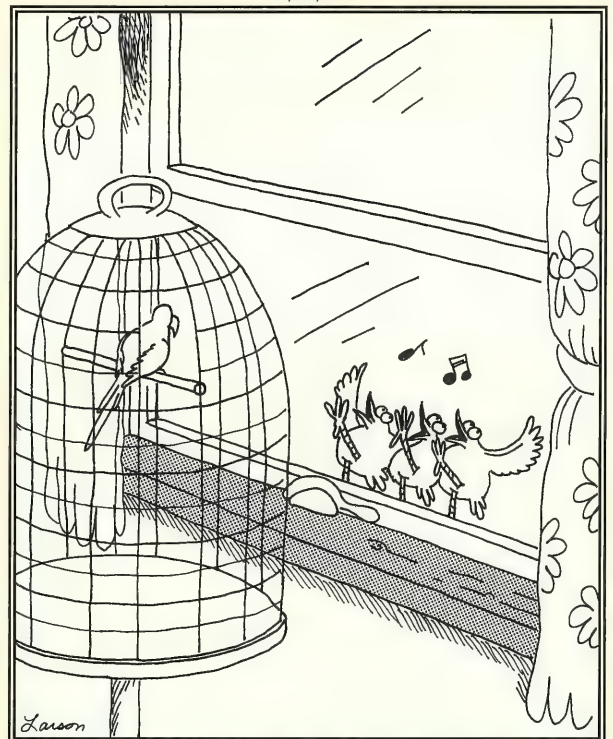


"Say ... look what *they're* doing."

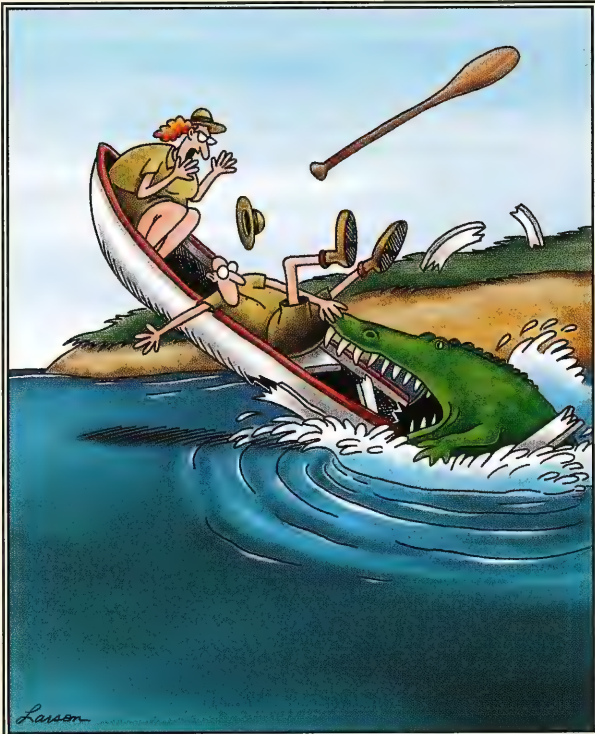
10/18/82



10/20/82



10/21/82



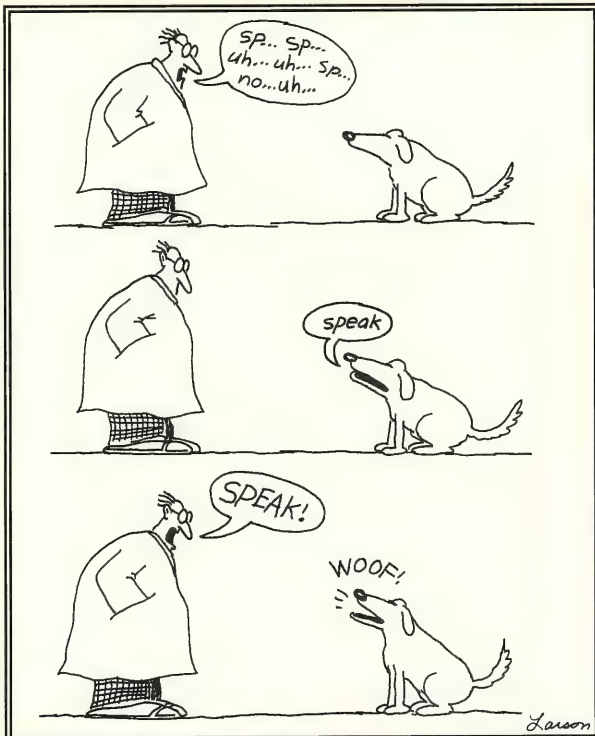
"RUB HIS BELLY, ERNIE! RUB HIS BELLY!"

10/19/82



"Shhhhhh ... I wanna surprise the kids."

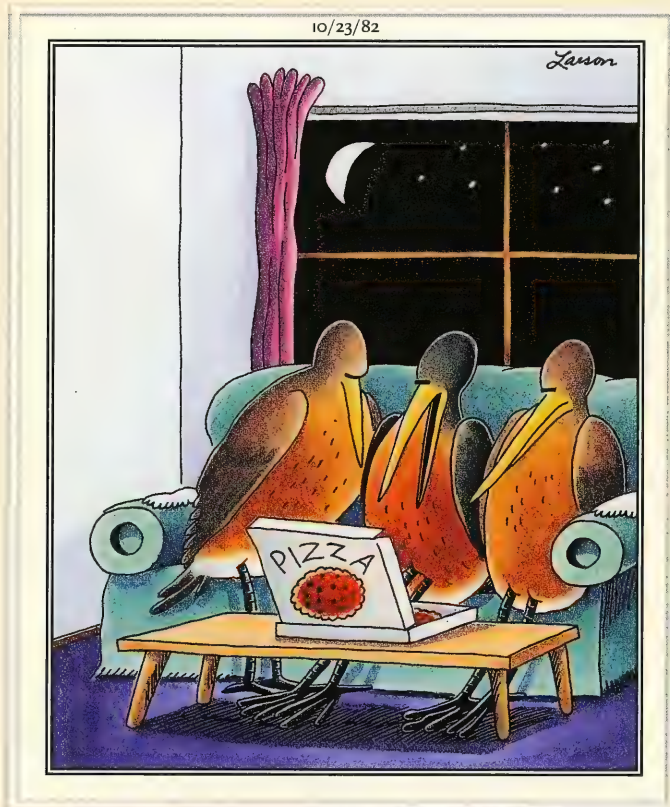
10/22/82



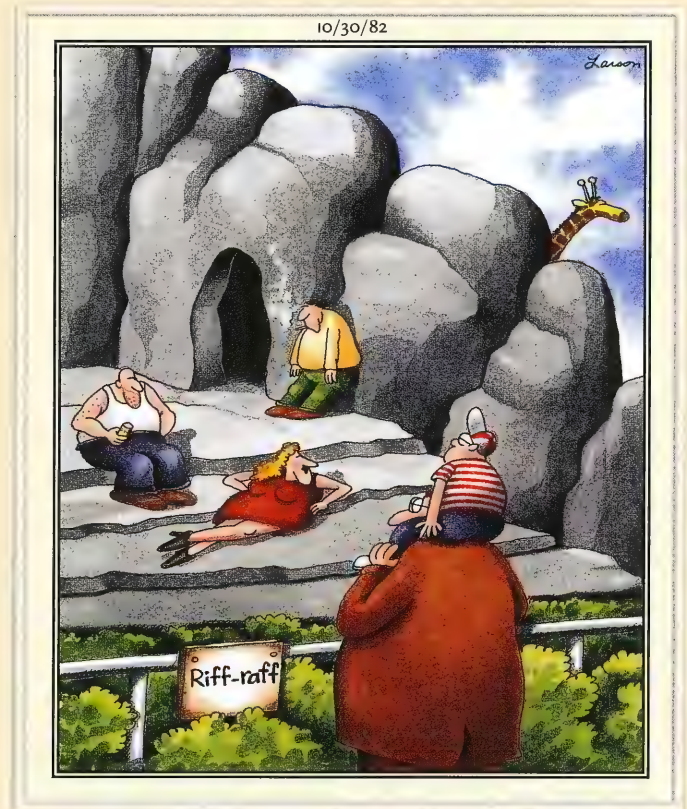
10/25/82



"Well, I guess both Warren and the cat are okay. ... But thank goodness for the Heimlich maneuver!"



"Let's see—mosquitoes, gnats, flies, ants ... what the? ... Those jerks! We didn't order stinkbugs on this thing!"



"Now, don't forget, Gorok! ... *This* time punch some holes in the lid!"

The Lexington Leader, Lexington, Ky., Monday, November 8, 1982

Comic too far out for 'Far Side' fans

By JODY JAFFE
Knight-Ridder Newspapers

Cow tools? It didn't make much sense to a lot of people.

Chronicle Features, the syndicate that handles Gary Larson and his *Far Side* cartoons was deluged with calls after his cartoon captioned "Cow Tools," ran in newspapers across the country. Editors and readers were begging for an explanation.

(That cartoon did not appear in *The Leader*, one of 71 papers in the U.S. and Canada which carry the *Far Side*. *Leader* editor Steve Wilson said another *Far Side* cartoon was used in its place "because we didn't understand the gag.")

"The phone never stopped ringing for two days," said Chronicle Features general manager Stuart Dodds, between chuckles about the whole mess. Dodds said he got the joke right off.

"It didn't seem like the greatest joke that Gary had made," Dodds said. "Those who didn't get it were searching for far-fetched explanations. Further than Gary's wildest thoughts."

But that's not the worst of it. Larson's own mother, Doris, didn't get the joke.

"She said, 'Dear, I don't think I quite understood this one,'" Larson said in a telephone interview from his home in Seattle. (Doris Larson, according to her son, understands most of his off-beat jokes, "except

for these occasional slip ups.")

After countless explanations to countless *Far Side* fans, Dodds decided to go public with the punchline. For the first time in Chronicle Features history, it sent out letters of explanation by the cartoonist to all 71 newspapers that carry Larson's daily cartoon.

"This cartoon was meant as an exercise in silliness," Larson wrote.

"I've never met a cow who could make tools, but if I had, I feel sure that its efforts would lack something in sophistication and would resemble the crude specimens shown in the cartoon."

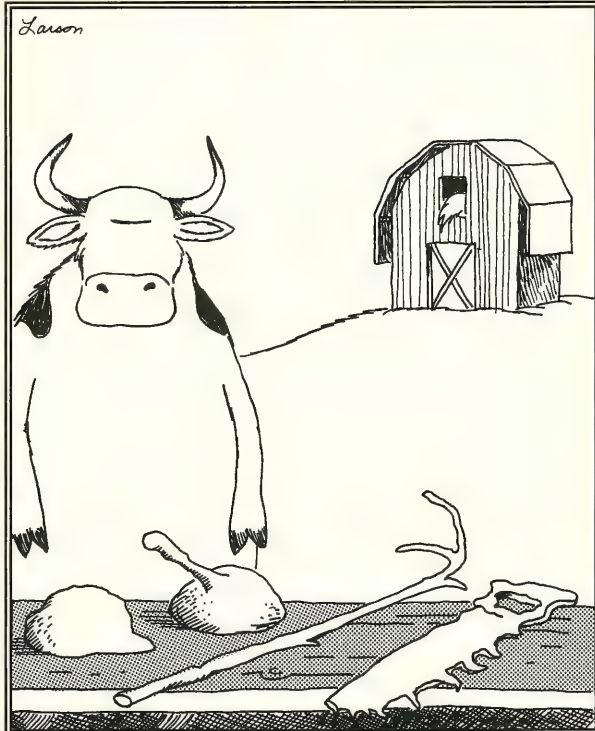
That's it, folks, the punchline: If cows could build tools, those are the kind they'd build.

For those who want further explanation, read on. Larson came up with the joke after remembering a definition of mankind: one of the things that separates human beings from animals is that humans can build tools.

"I started thinking of well ... cows," said Larson, who at one time, worked at a humane society. "I like cows. I just think there's almost something intrinsically humorous about them. I even just like the name 'cow.'"

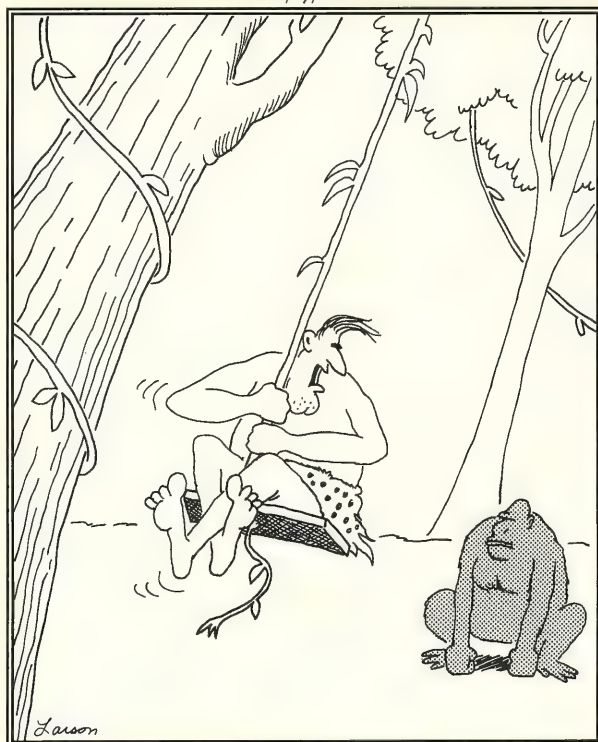
"I thought obviously cows don't make tools, but if they did, they would look like this. At the time I thought it was hysterical ... Wrong."

10/28/82



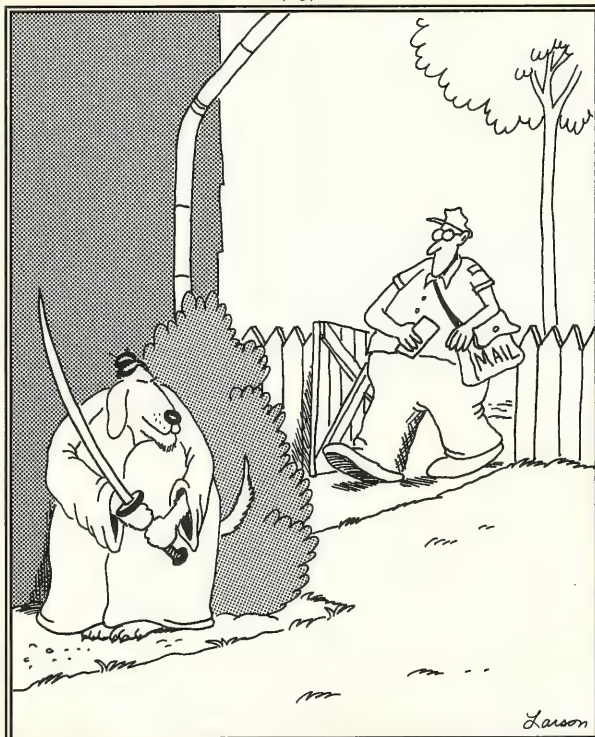
Cow tools

10/27/82



"Stop the swing! I'm getting sick! Stop the swing! Oongowa! Oongowa!"

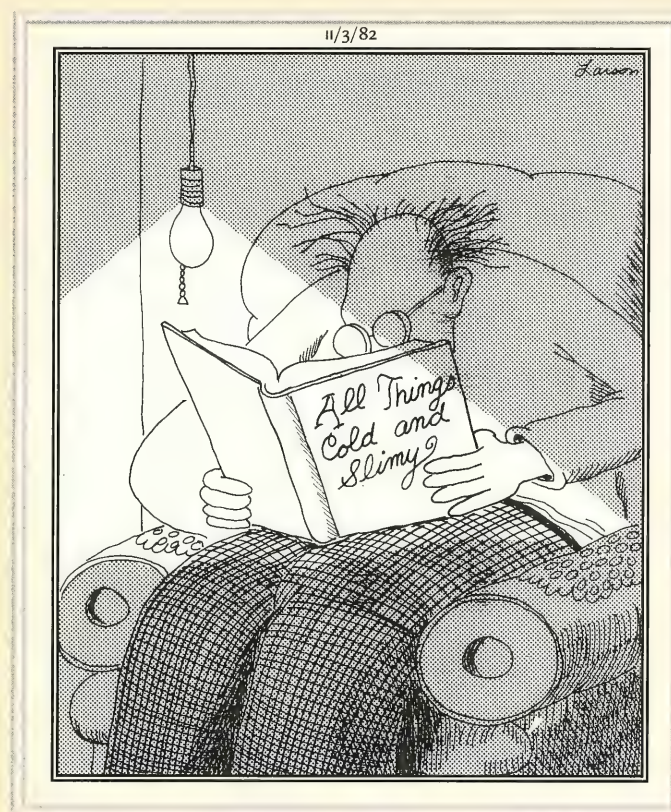
10/29/82



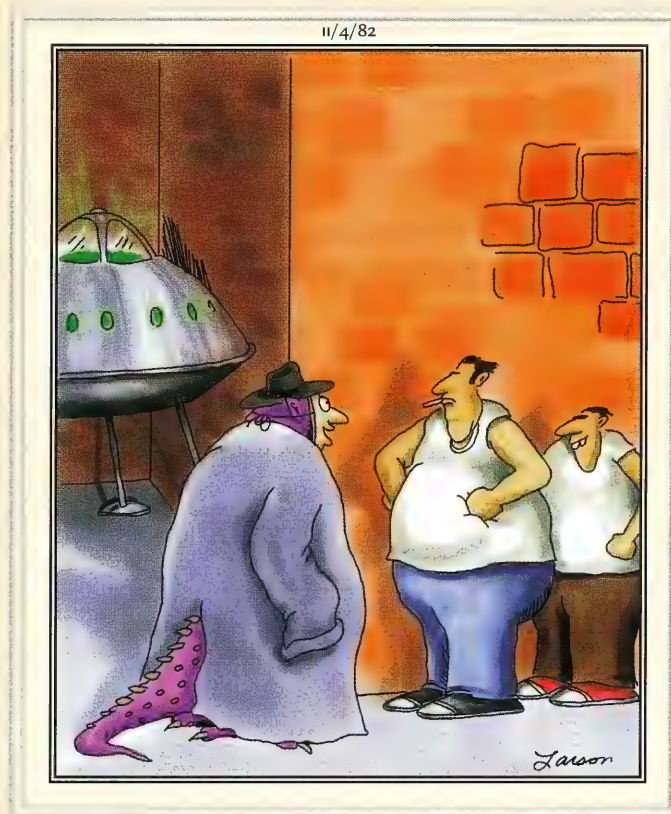
Larson



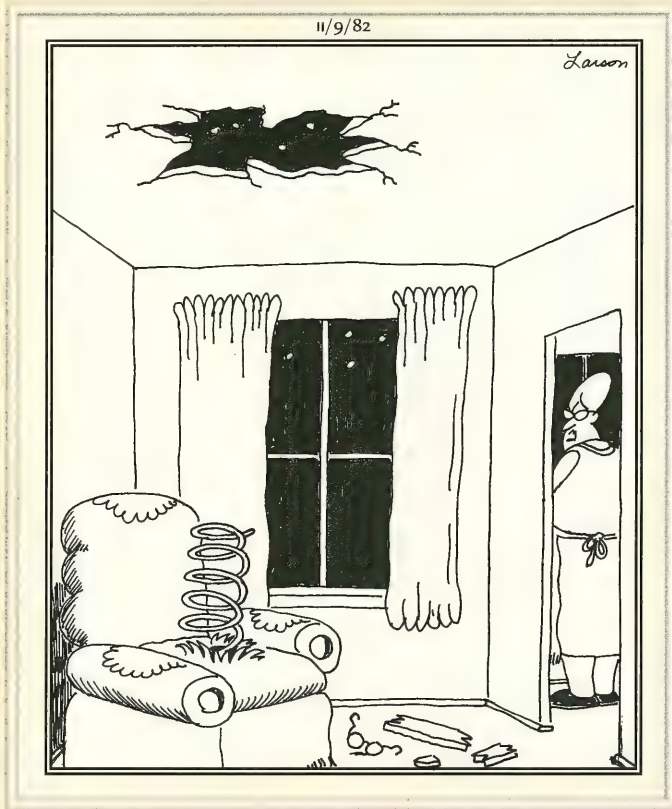
"Arnold, it's Mr. Wimberly on the phone. ...
He says the next time you buzz his house,
he'll have his 12-gauge ready."



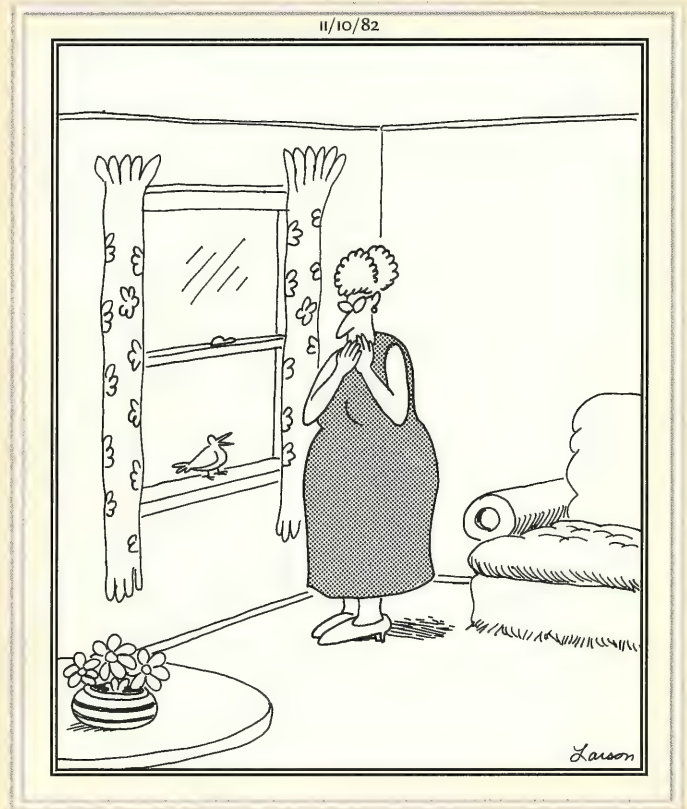
"Wait! Wait! Listen to me! ... We don't
have to be just sheep!"



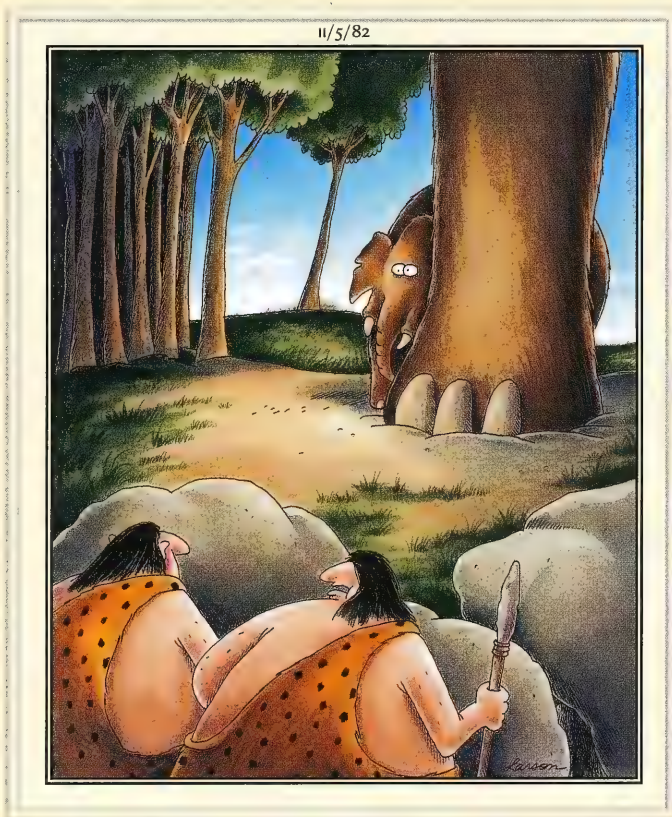
"Why ... yes ... thank ... you ... I ... would ...
like ... a ... knuckle ... sandwich."



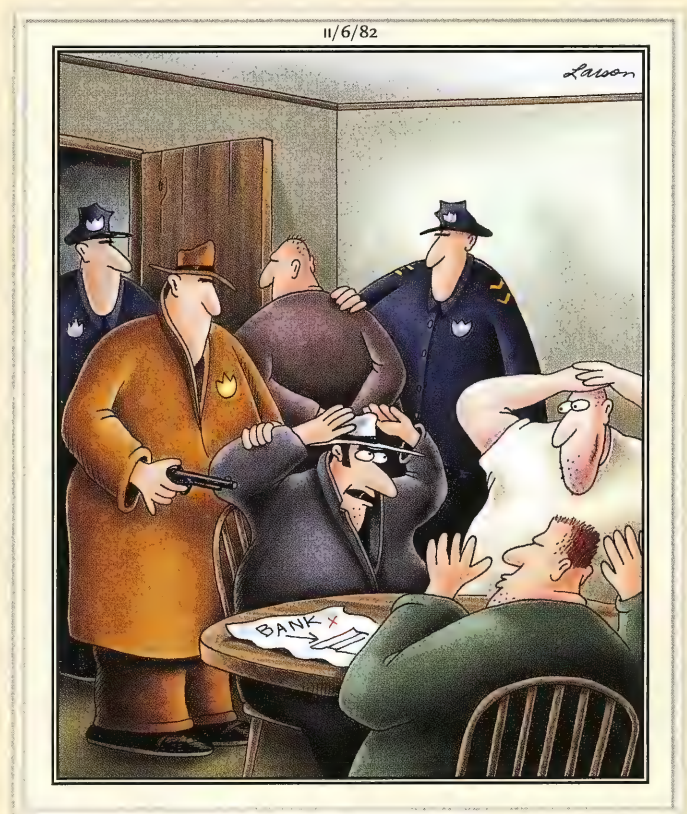
"Good heavens, Ronald! ... I think something just landed on the roof!"



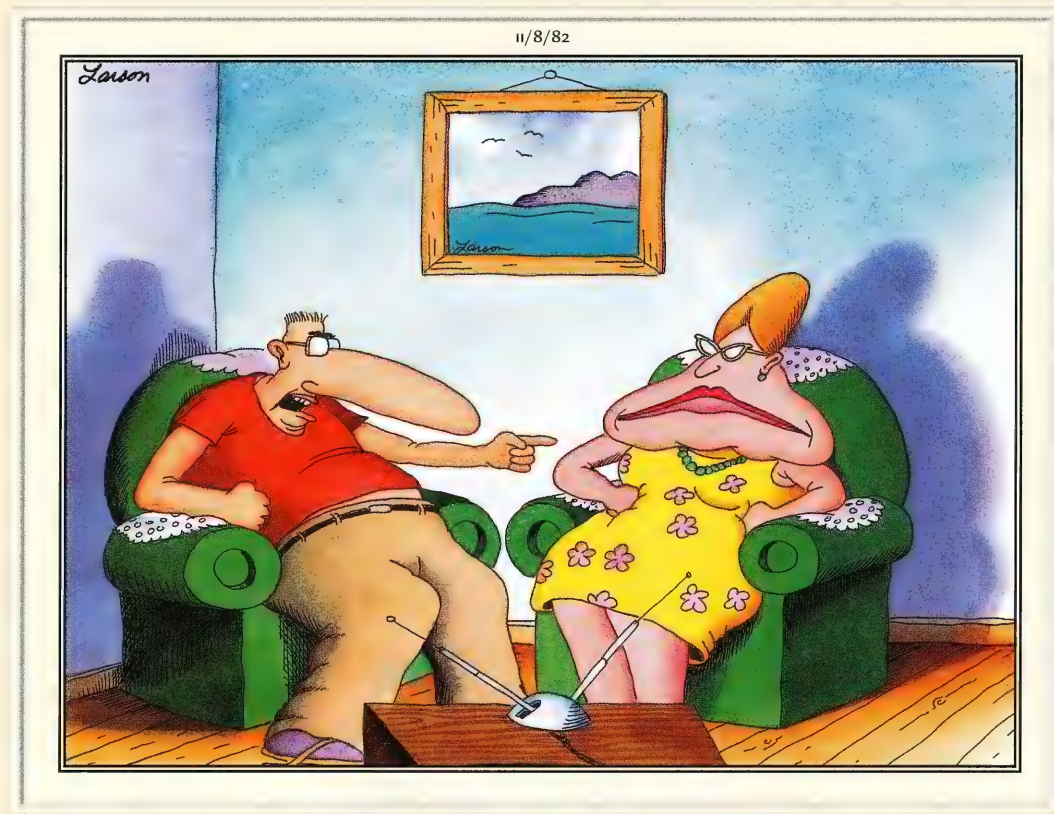
"I'm sorry, Margaret, but it's time I spread my wings and said goodbye."



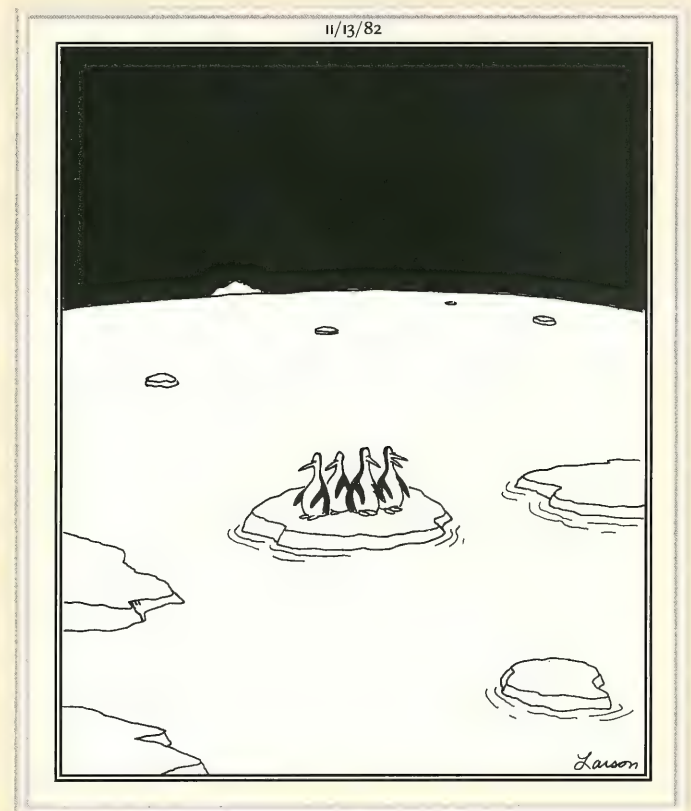
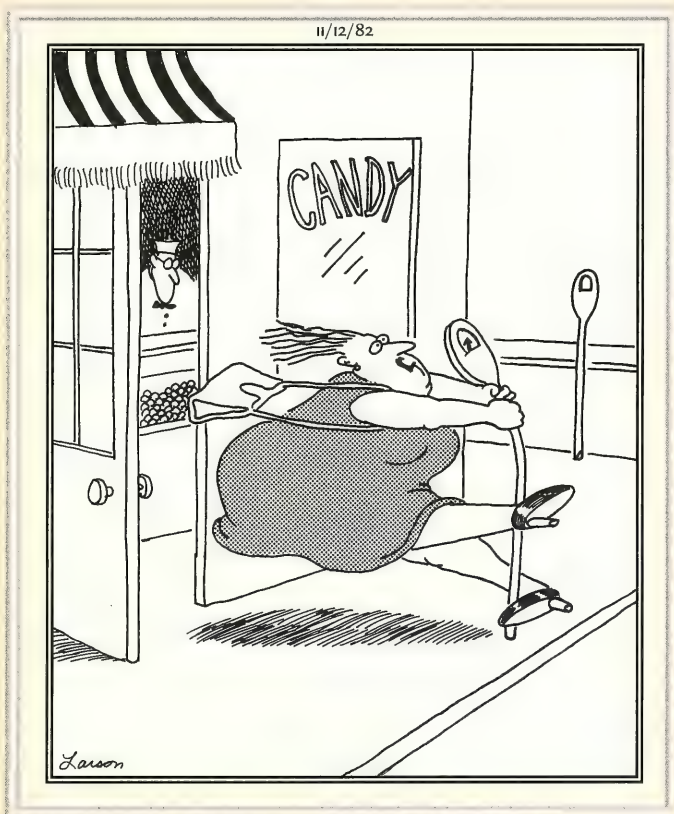
"Ha! We got him now!"



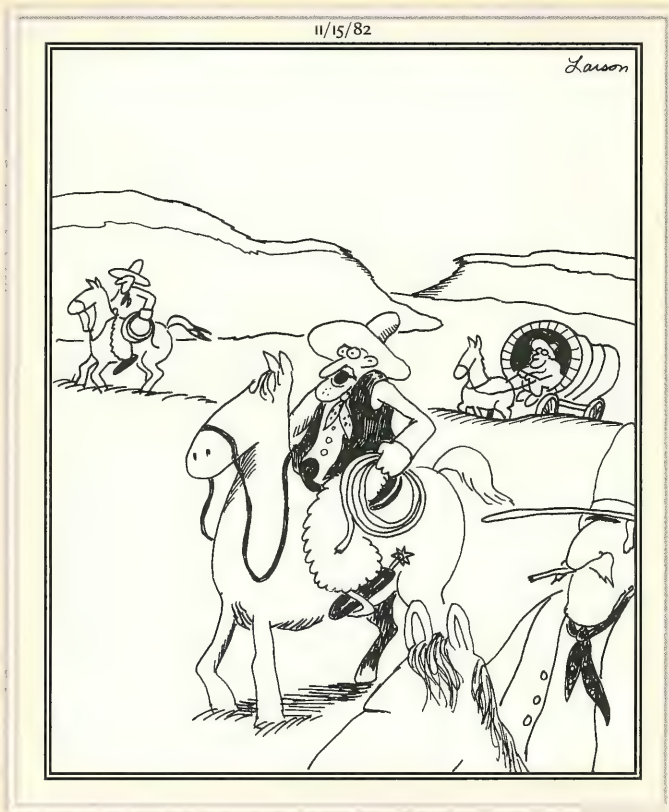
"I knew it! I just knew it. ... 'Shave and a Haircut' was a lousy secret knock."



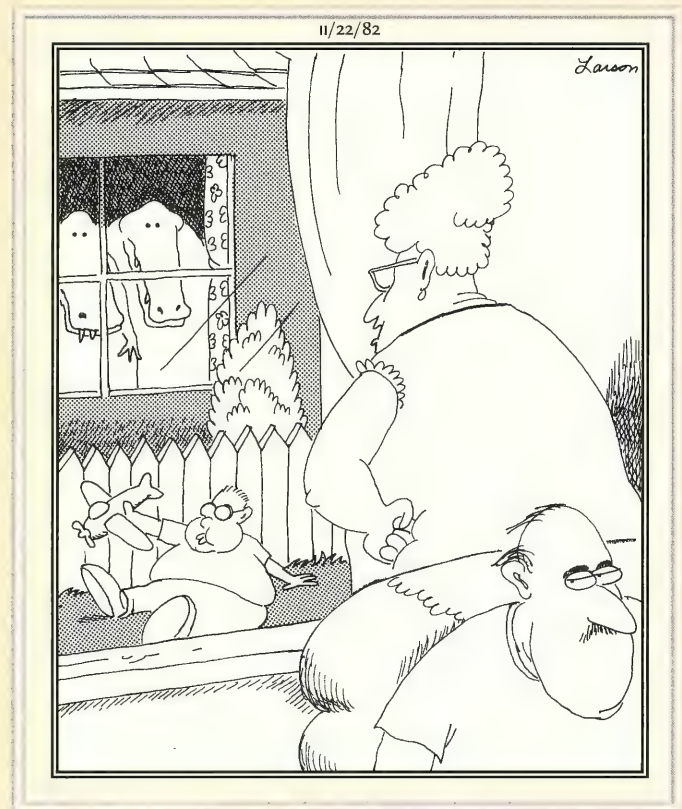
"Oh! Is that so? ... Well, you've got a big mouth!"



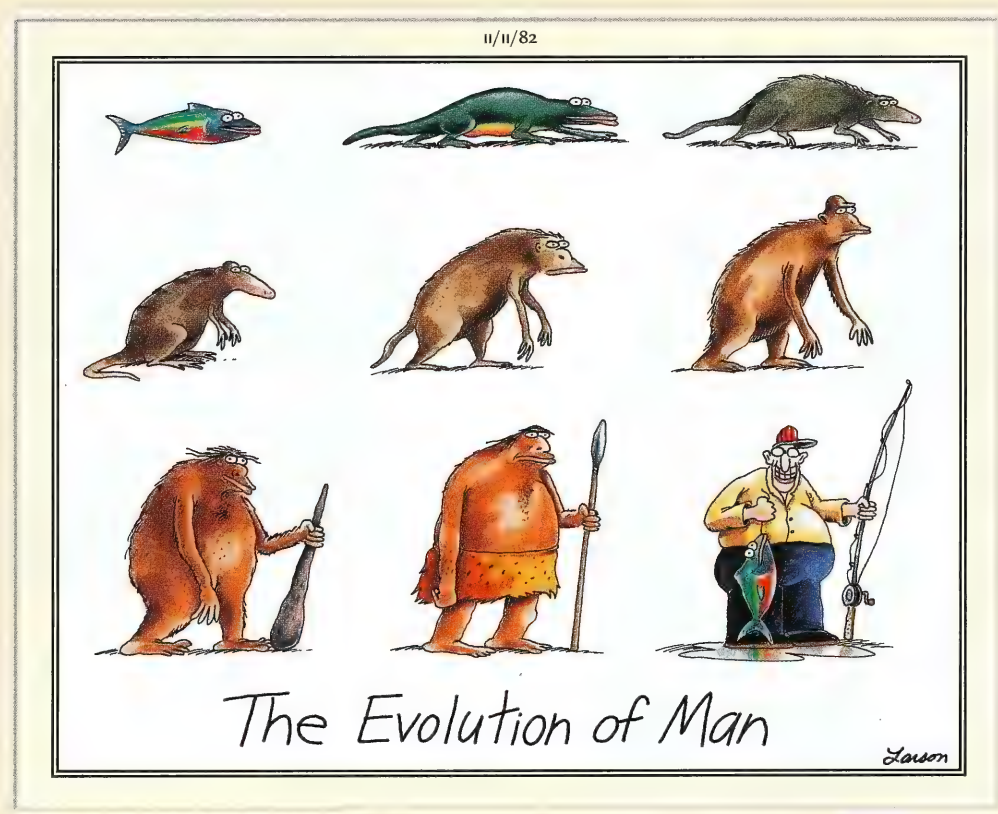
"Well, once again, here we are."



"Say ... wait just a dang minute, here. ...
We forgot the cattle!"



"I just don't like it, Al. ... Whenever Billy goes
outside, the new neighbors seem compelled
to watch every little thing he does."

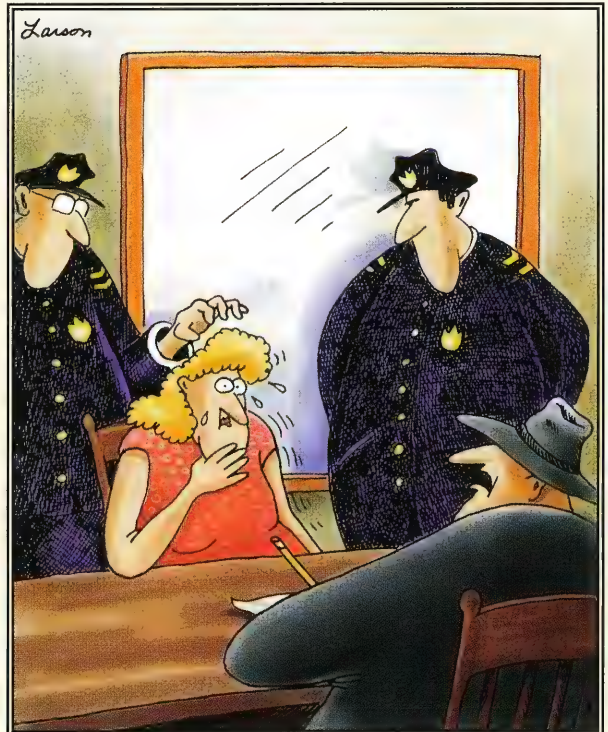


11/16/82



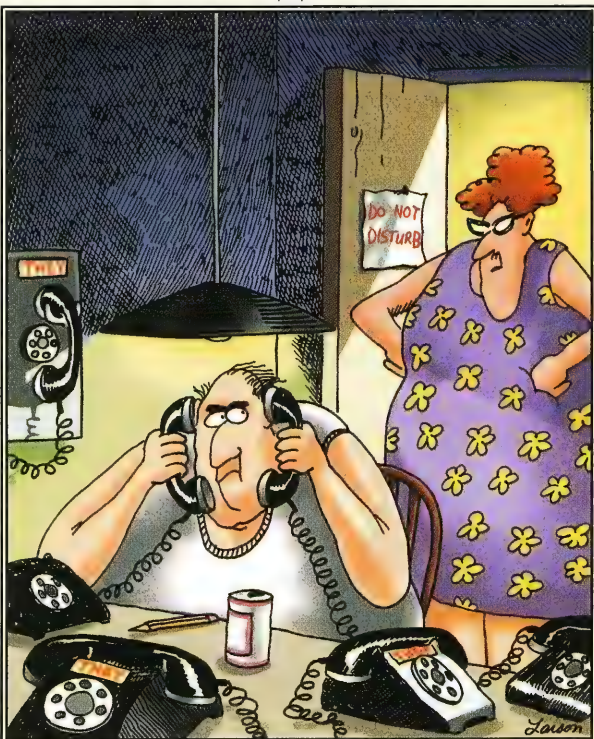
"‘Looks like a trap,’ I said. ‘Nonsense,’ you said. ‘No one would set a trap way out here in the woods,’ you said.”

11/17/82



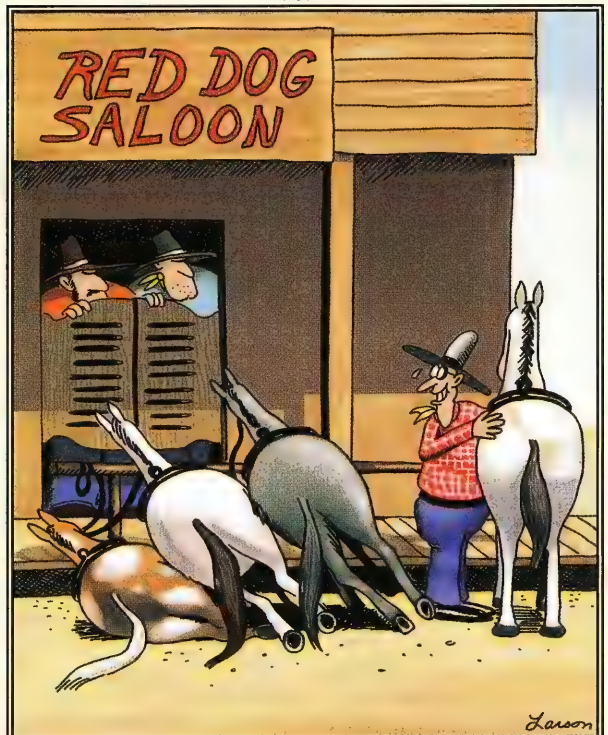
"Try to relax, ma'am. ... You say it was dark and you were alone in the house, when suddenly you felt a hand reaching from behind and ...
JOHNSON! KNOCK IT OFF!"

11/18/82

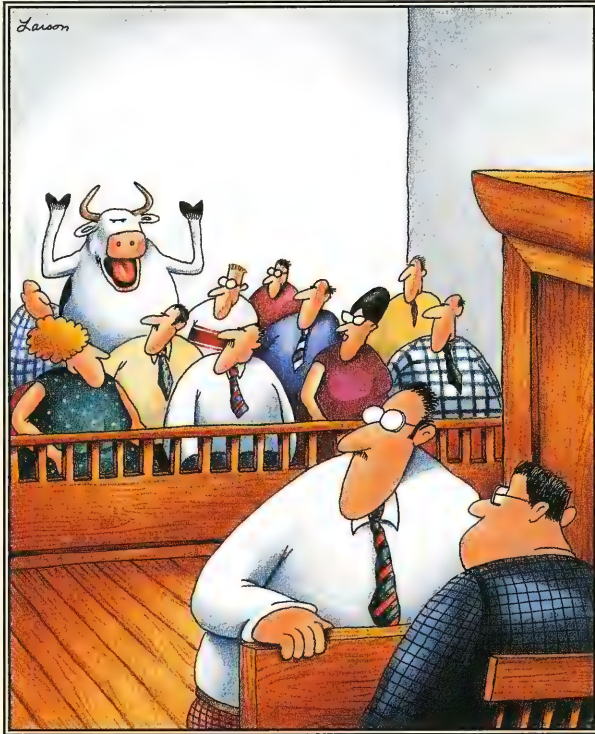


"You, Bernie Horowitz? ... So you're the 'they' in 'that's what they say'?"

11/19/82



11/23/82



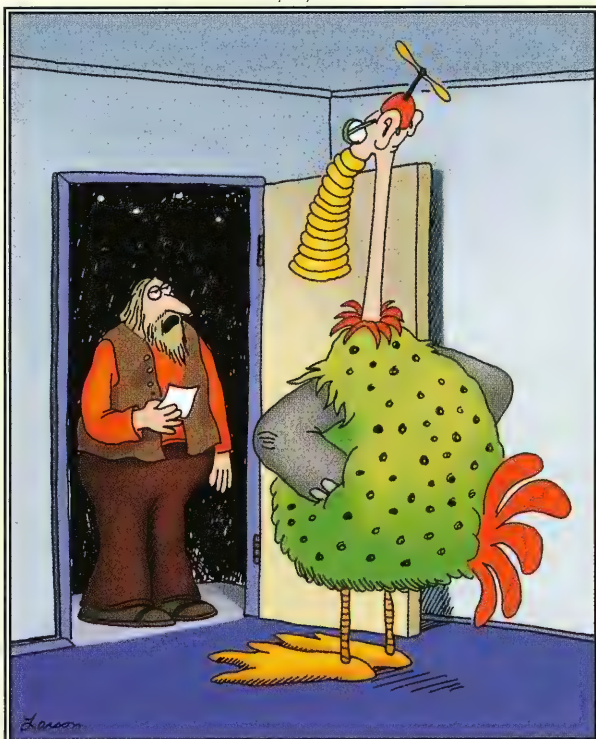
"All right! All right! I confess! I did it! Yes!
That's right! The cow! Ha ha ha!
And I feel great!"

11/24/82



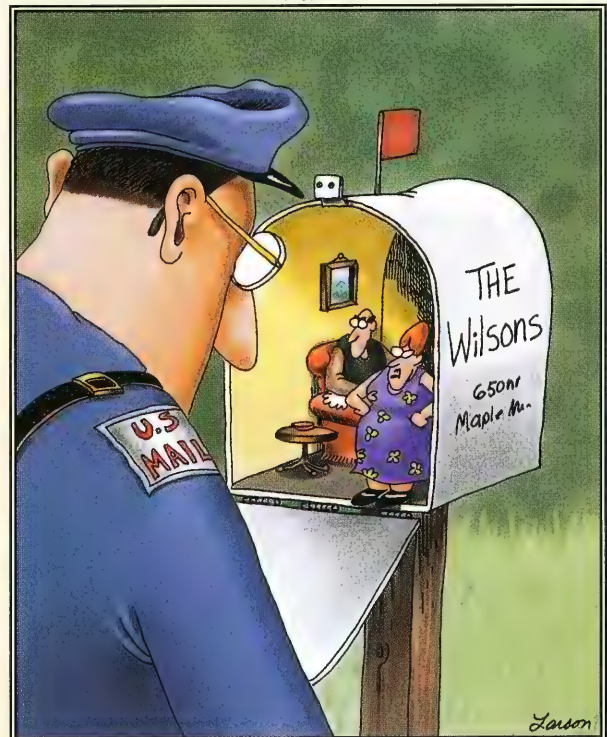
"Oh boy! ... It's dog food again!"

11/20/82

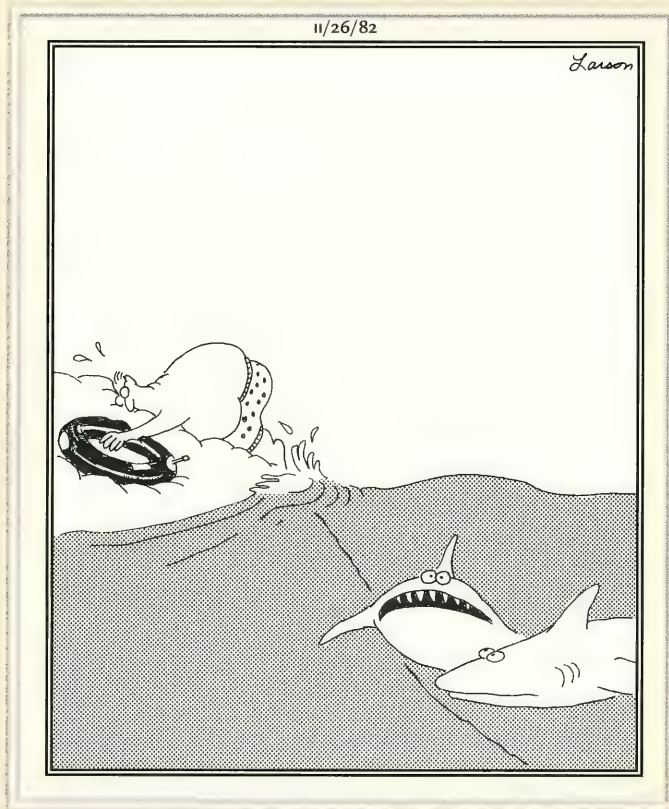


"I wonder if you could help me. ... I'm
looking for 523 West Cherry and ...
Oh! Wow! Déjà vu!"

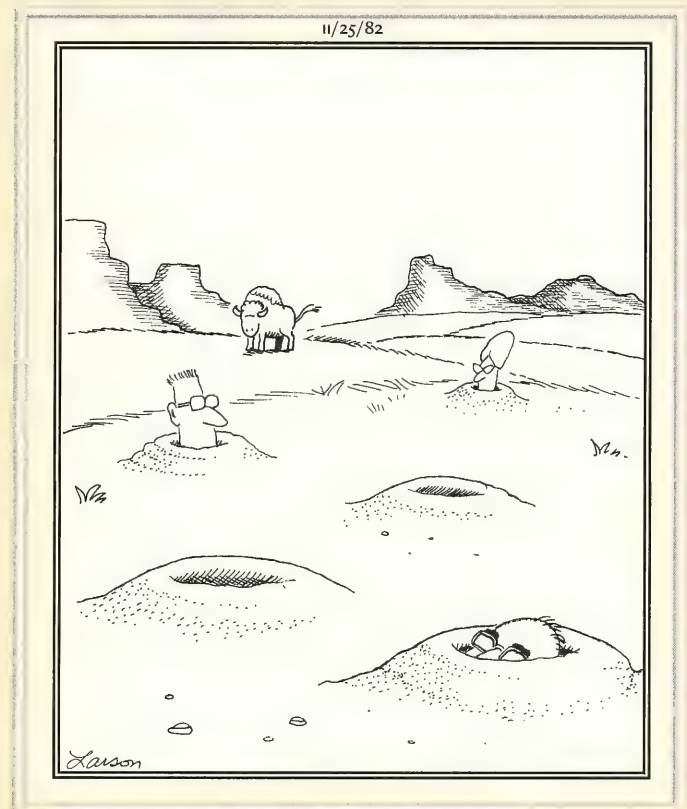
11/27/82



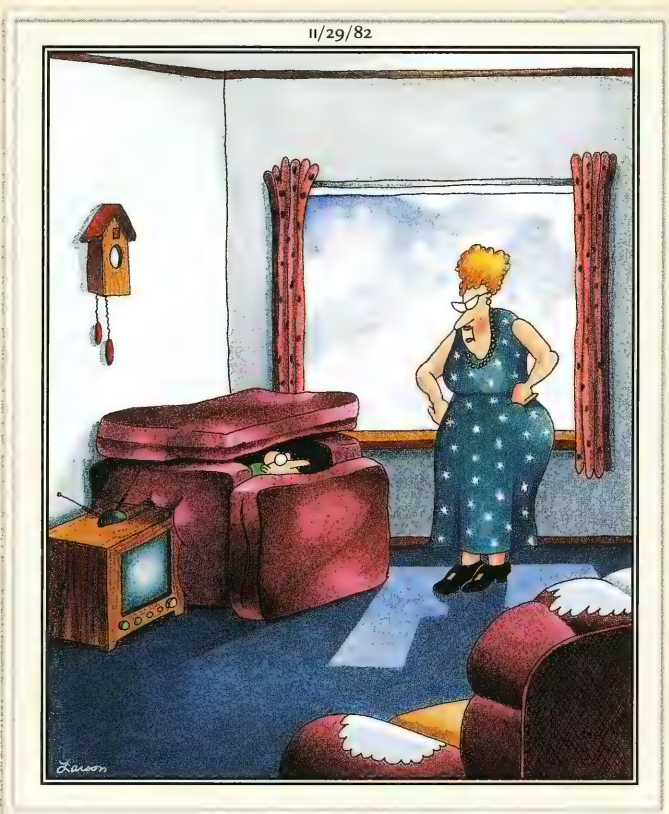
"We're the Wilsons, bozo! ... What's it
say on the box?"



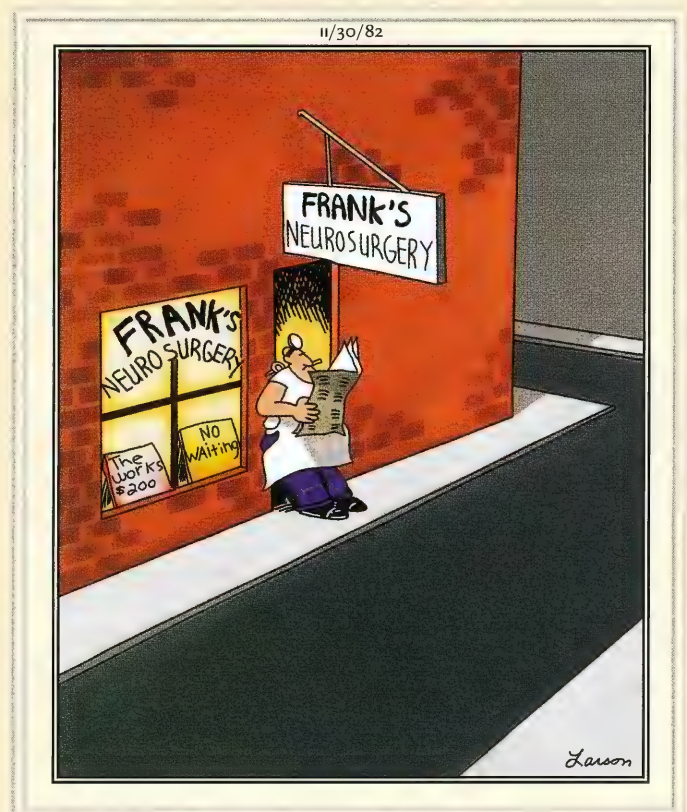
"He was magnificent! Just magnificent! And I almost had him!... I can't talk about it right now."



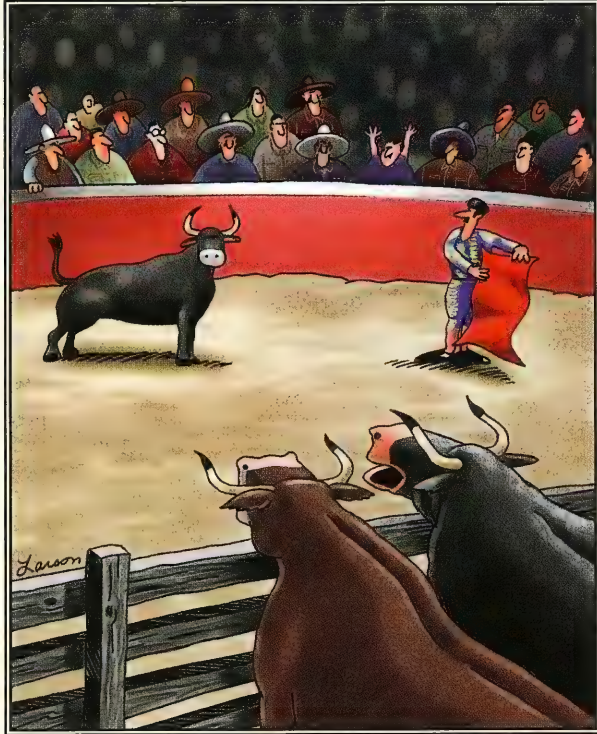
The rare and timid prairie people



"Well, you can just rebuild the fort later, Harold. ... Phyllis and Shirley are coming over and I'll need the cushions."



12/1/82



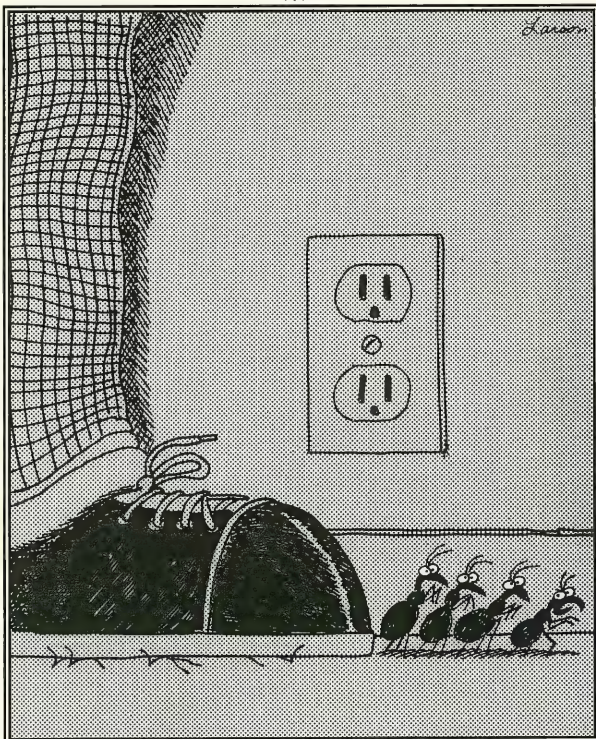
"THE CAPE, LARRY! GO FOR THE CAPE!"

12/2/82



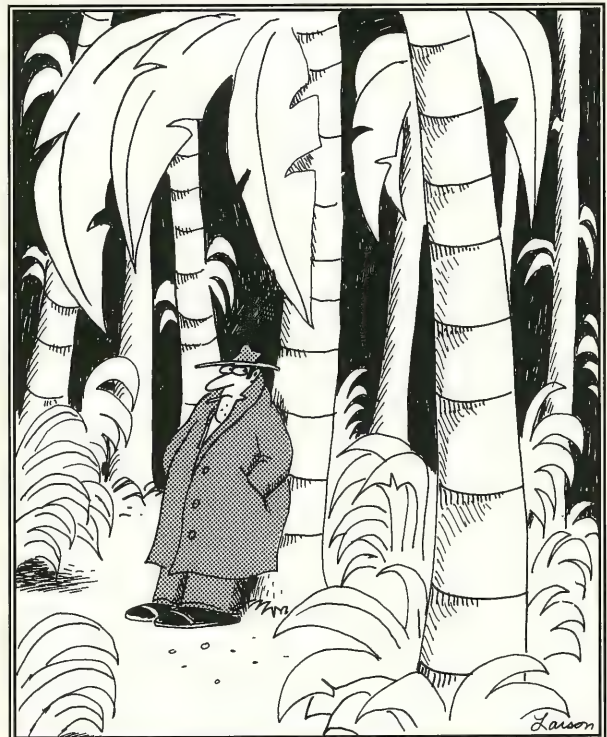
"You boys got a bottle opener?"

12/7/82

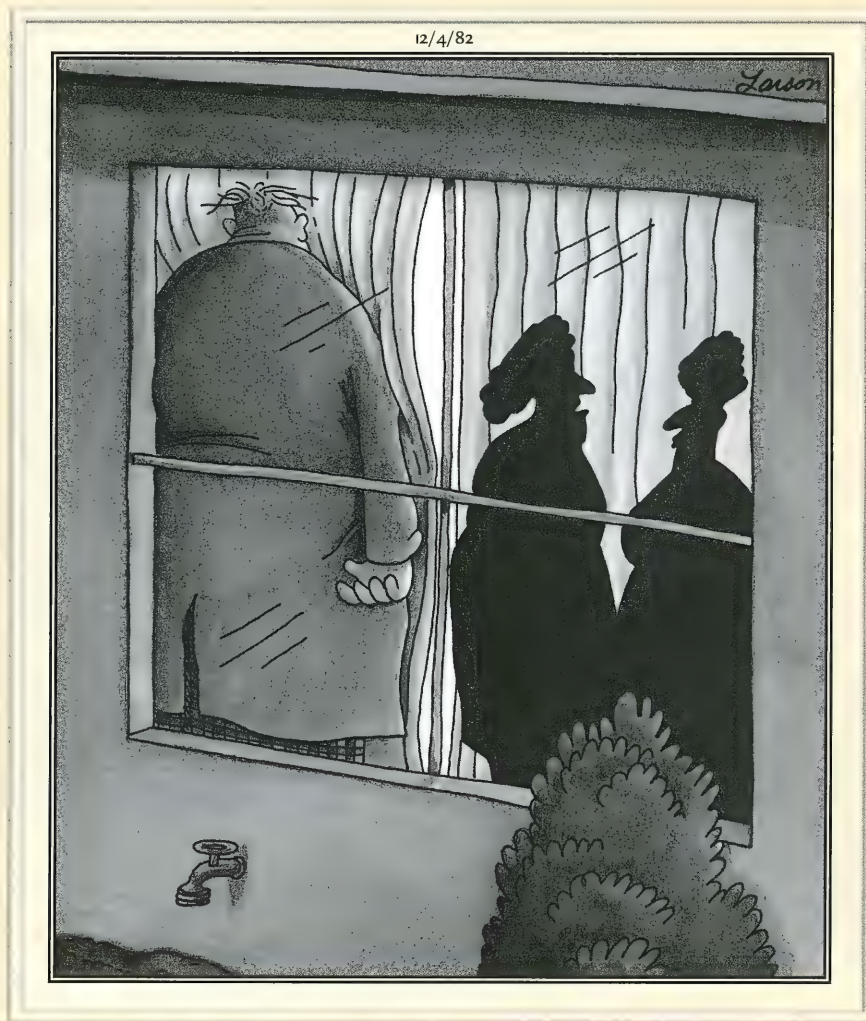


"Shhh! Knock off that crunching noise! ...
Pass it on!"

12/11/82



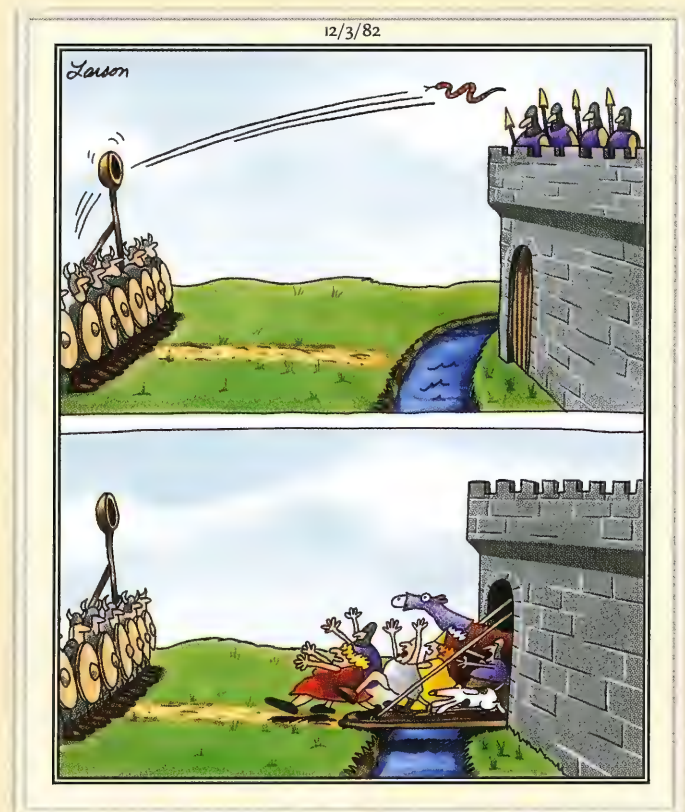
Jungle-wise characters



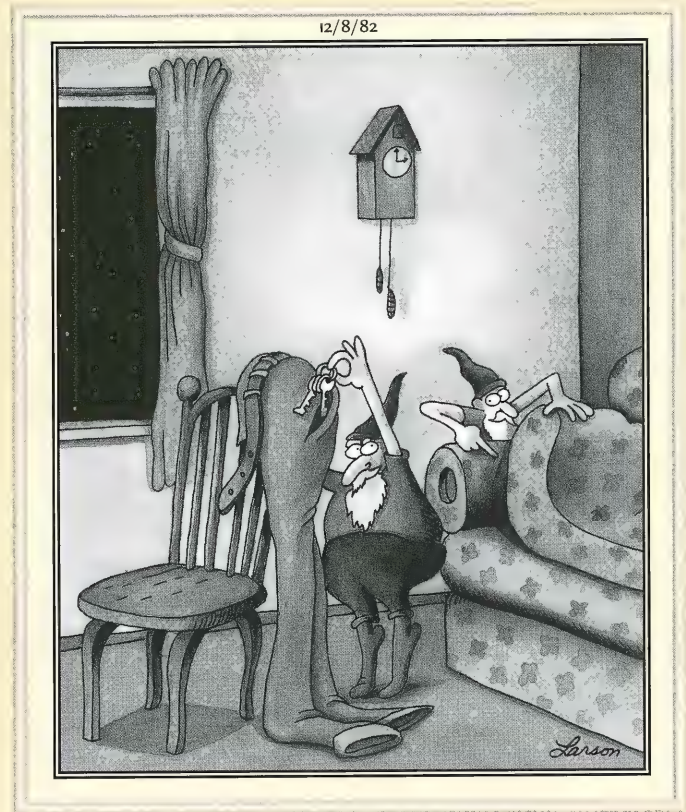
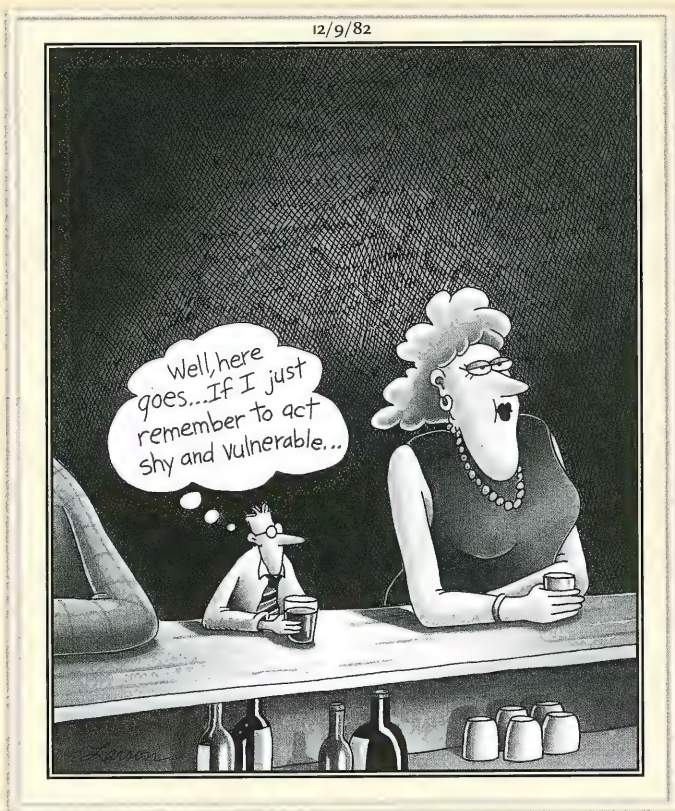
"See, Barbara? There's no one in here, no one outside. ...
I'll even open the drapes and have a look."



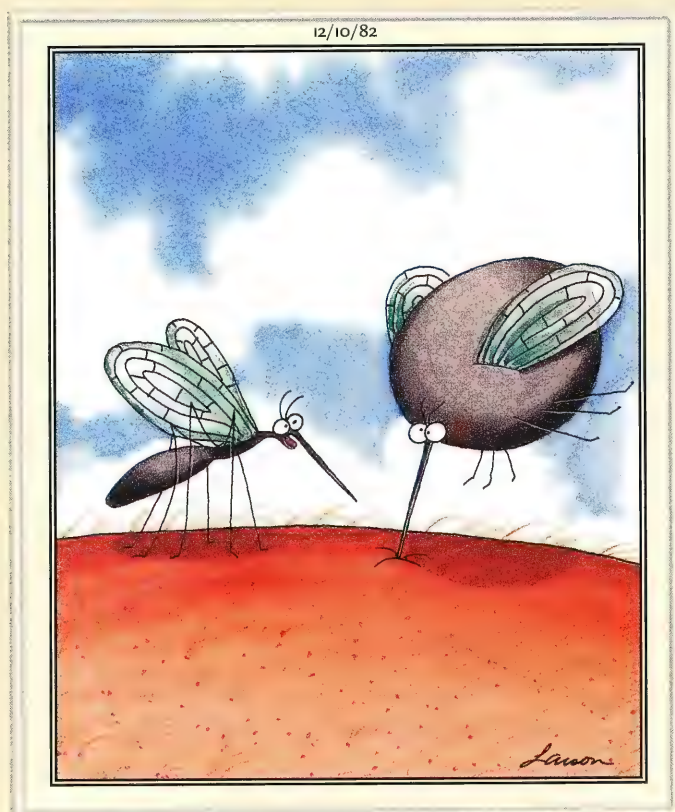
"Now wait a minute. ... He said two jerks
means 'more slack' and three meant
'come up'... but he never said nothin'
about one long, steady pull."



History and the snake



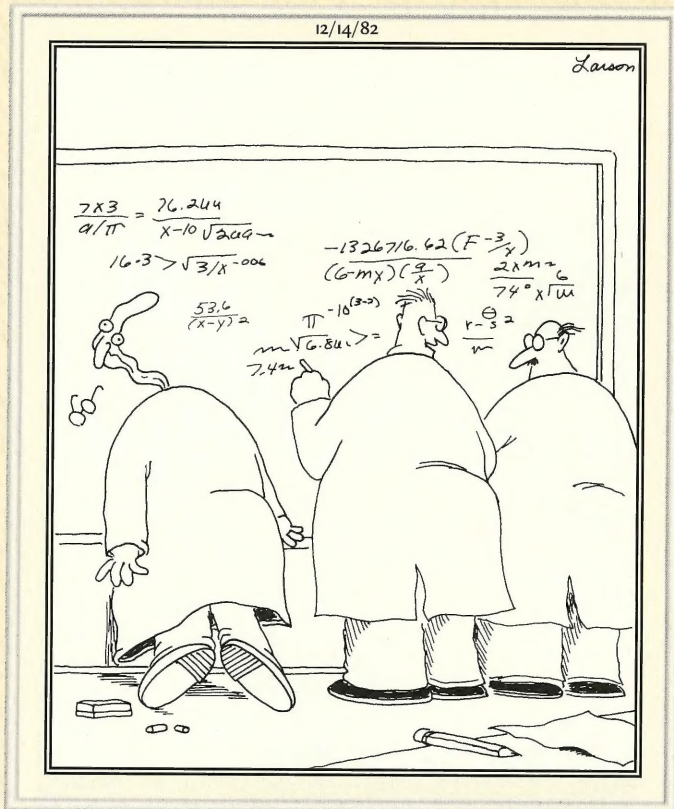
Car key gnomes



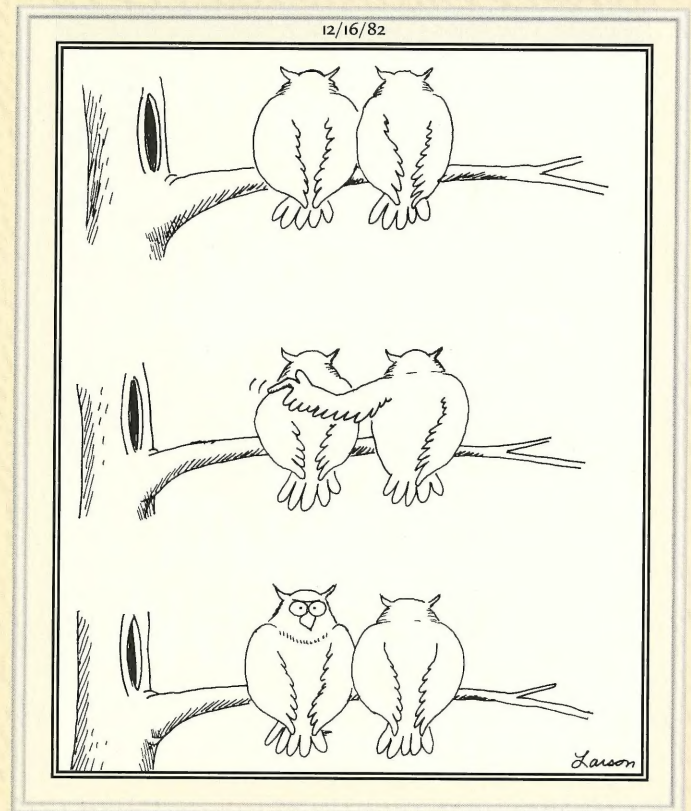
"Pull out, Betty! Pull out! ... You've hit an artery!"



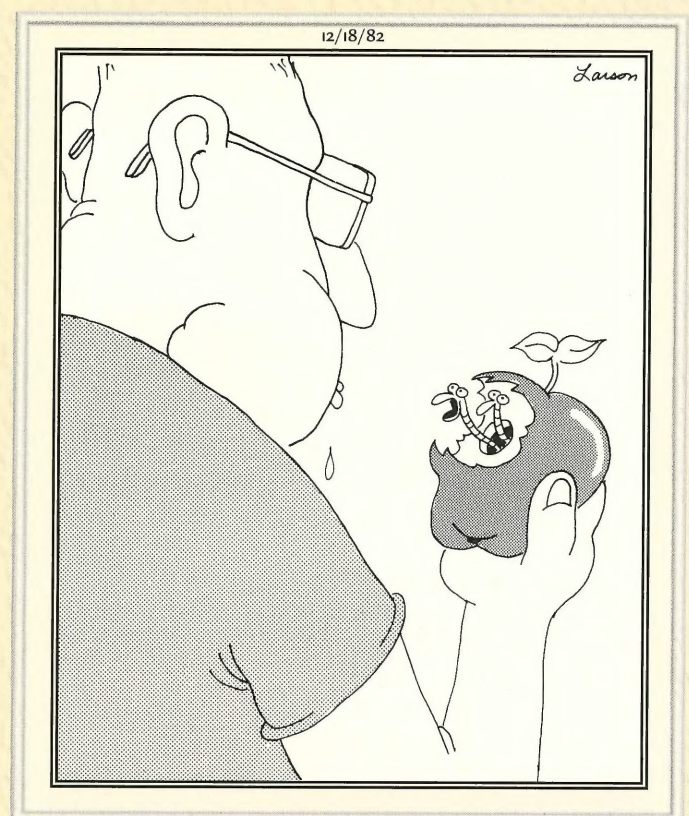
"Well, Zoron ... is this a close enough look for you?"



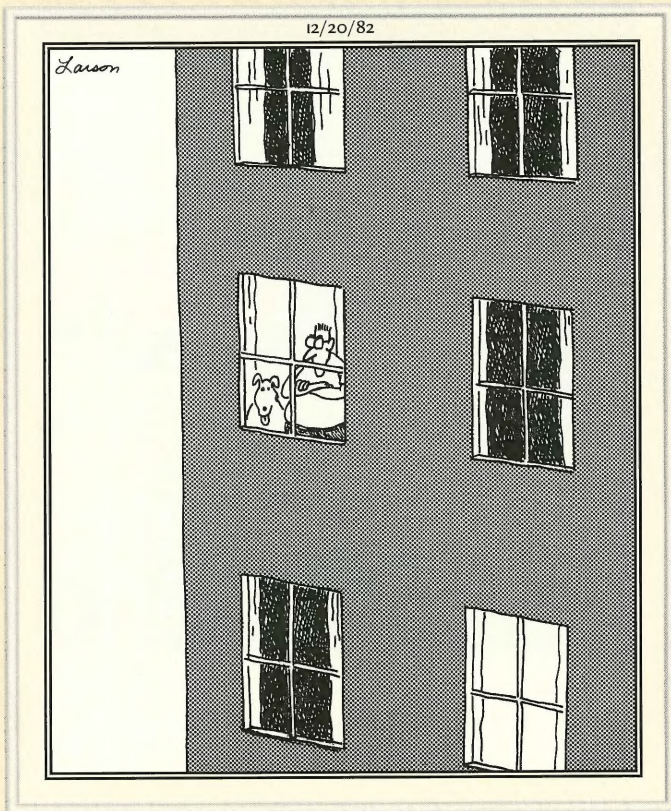
"Ha! Webster's blown his cerebral cortex."



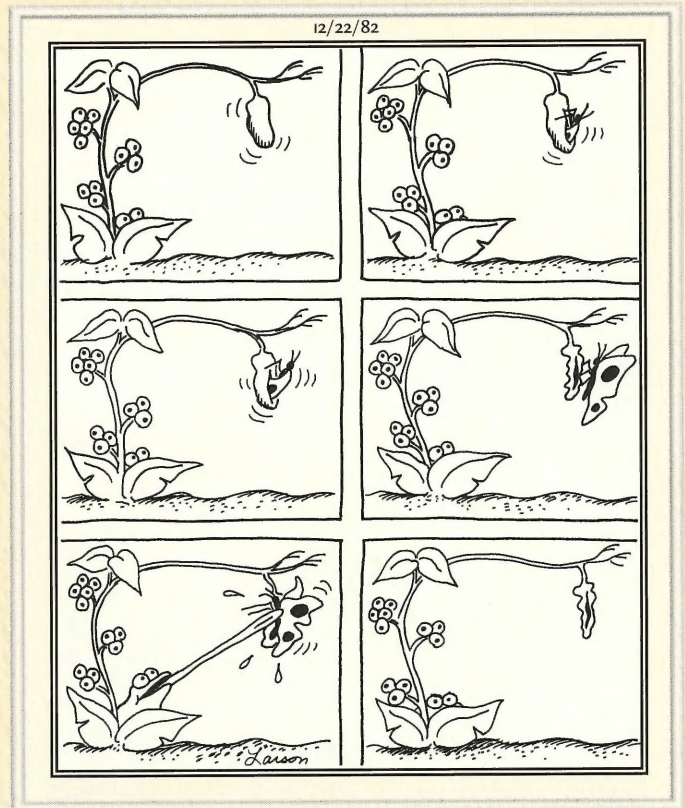
"I'm not warning you again, Sparky! ... You chew with your mouth open!"



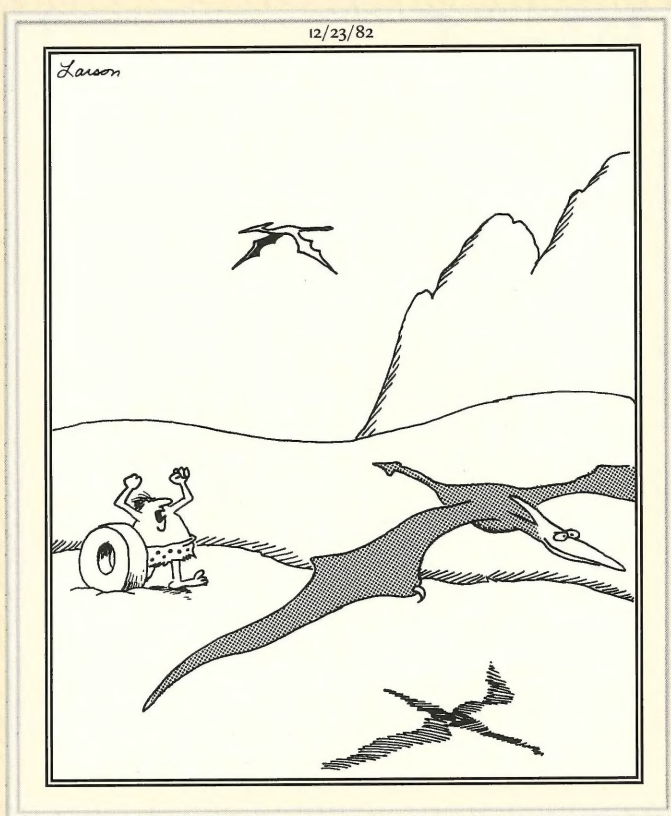
"Egad! ... It's got most of Uncle Jake!"



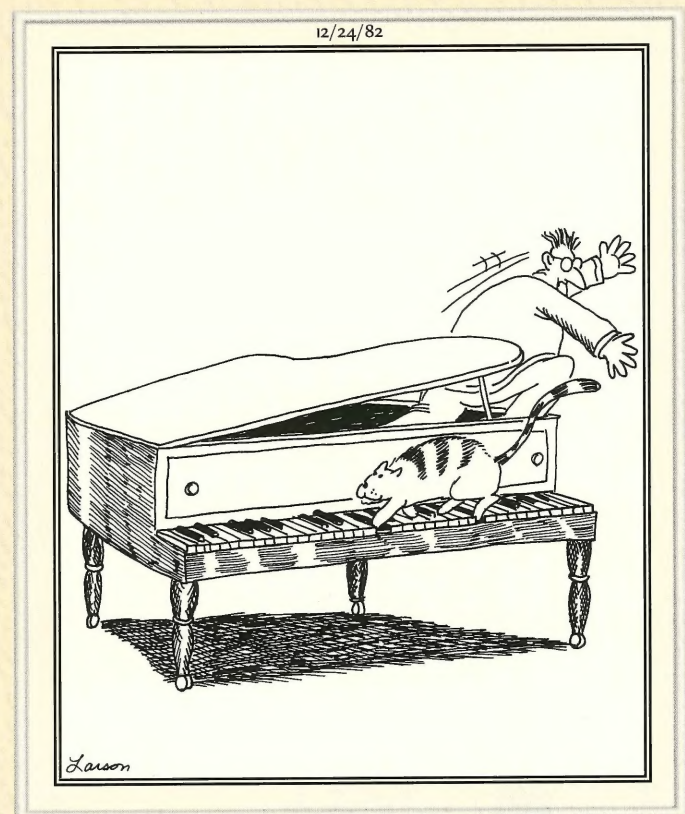
Edwin lived reclusively in his midtown apartment with his dog, Lola, whom he secretly loathed.

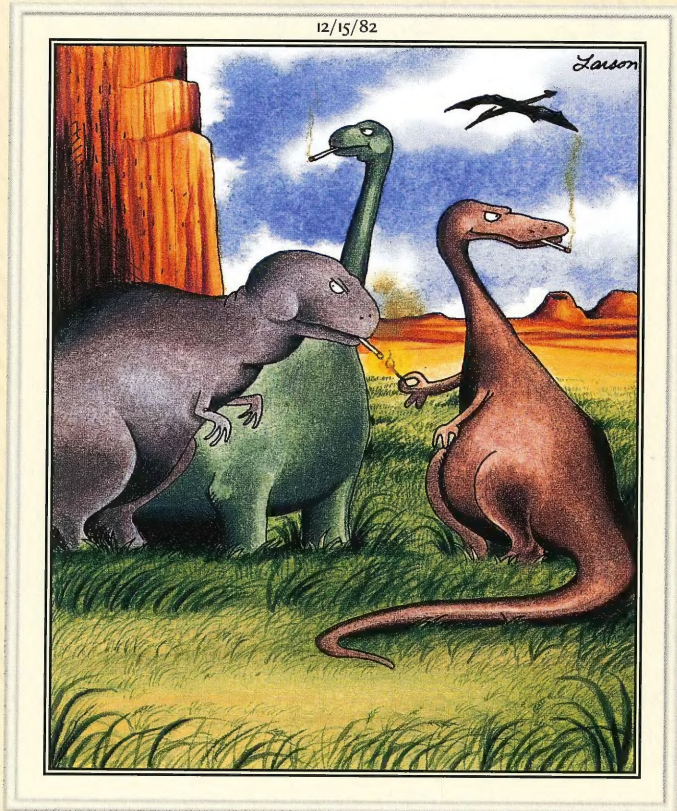


Metamorphosis

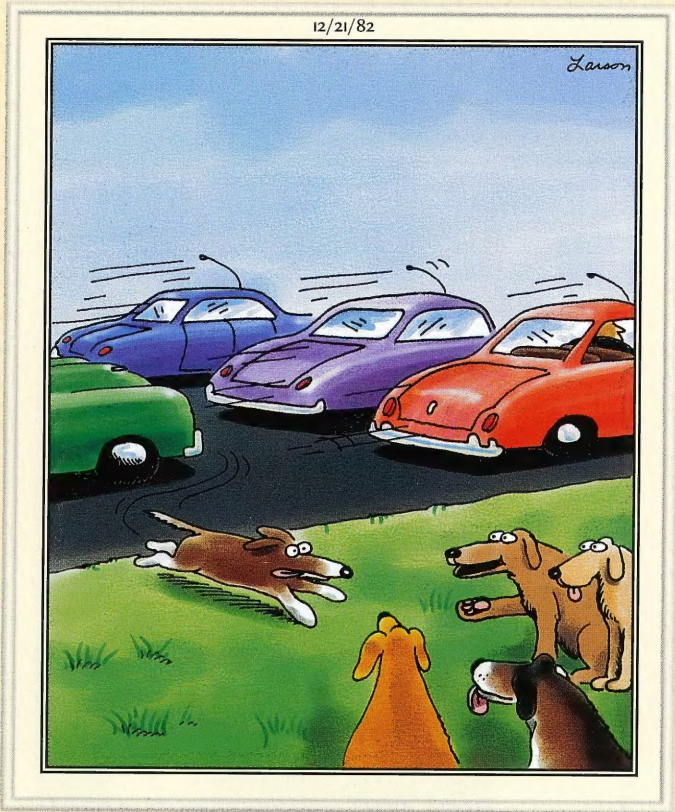


It was a beautiful day, the sun was shining, and Zog had just finished washing his new invention.

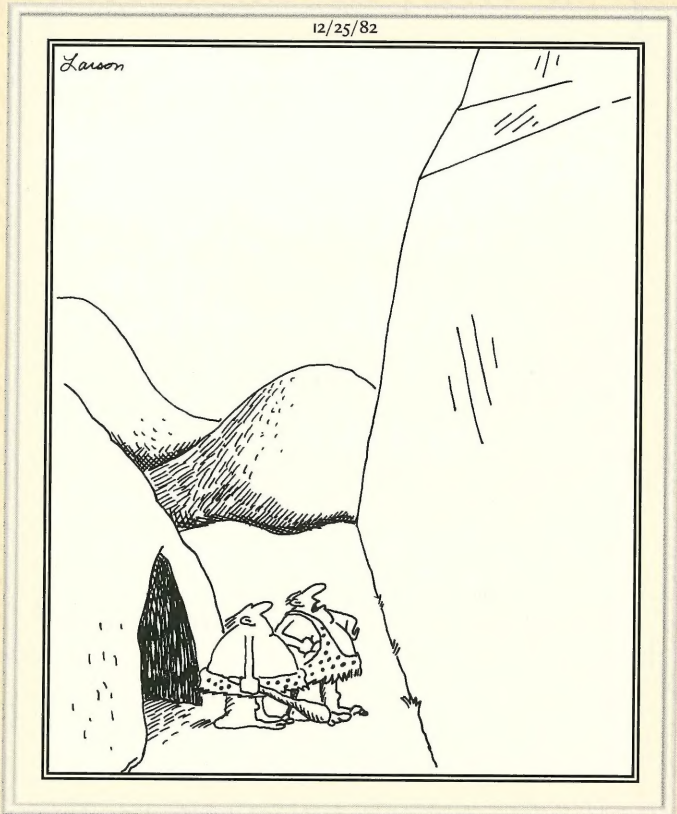




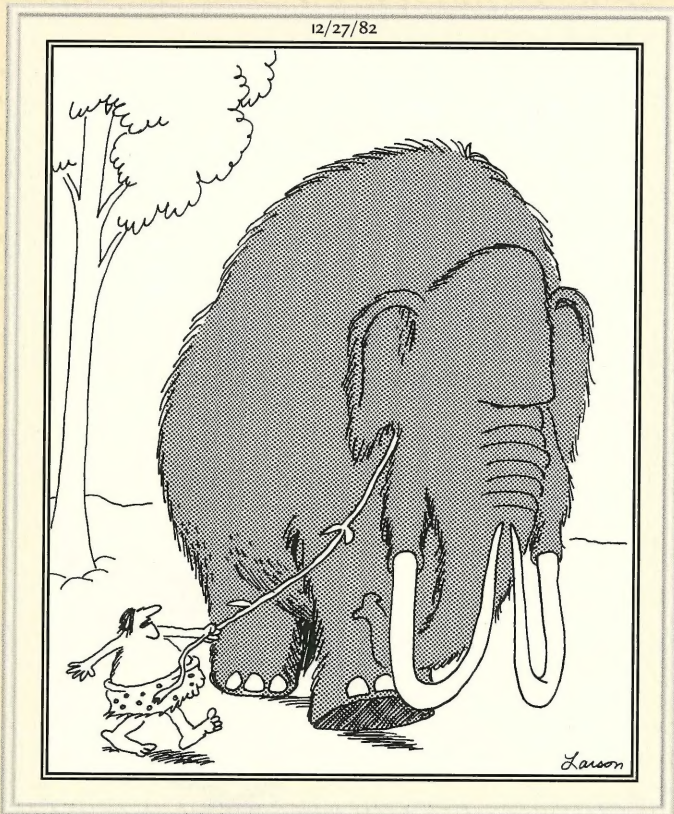
The real reason dinosaurs became extinct



"All right! Rusty's in the club!"



"Say, Thag ... wall of ice closer today?"



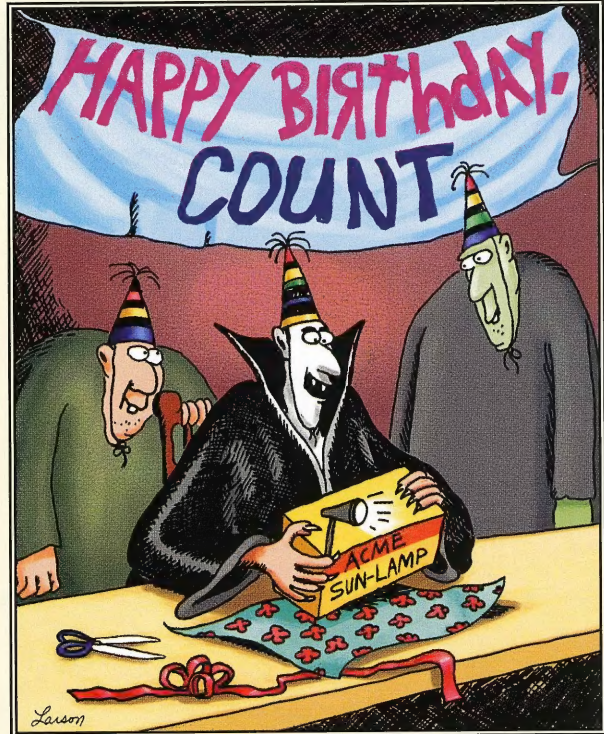
"Walkies! Walkies!"

12/28/82



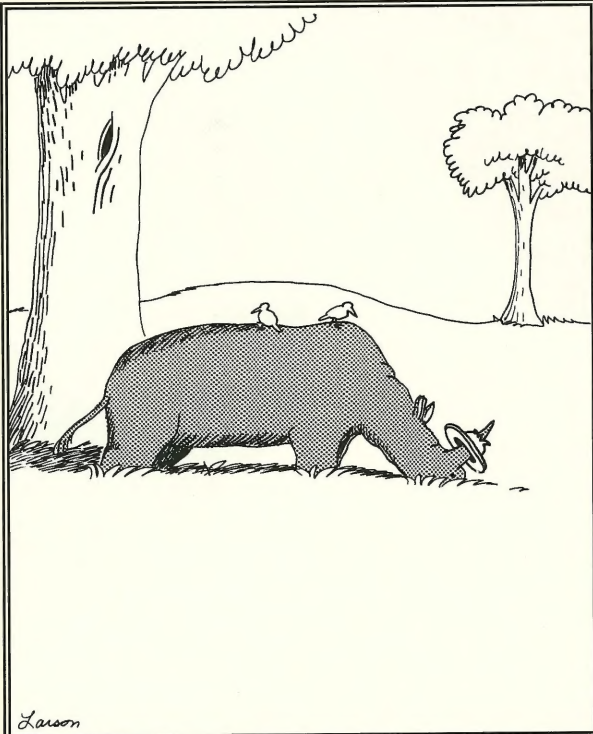
Primitive peer pressure

12/30/82

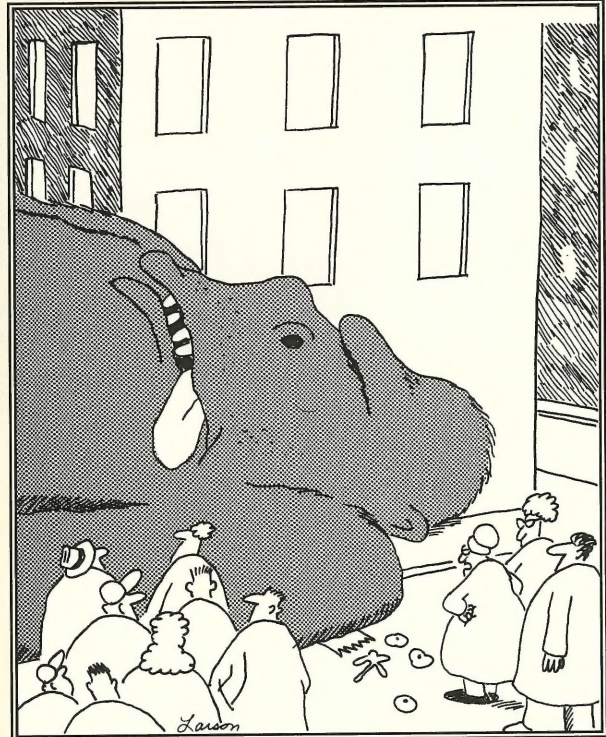


"Well, for goodness sakes! ...
What is this thing?"

12/29/82



12/31/82



"Well, that does it for my tomatoes."